

Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul



"There is no satisfaction without a struggle first."

-Marty Liquori

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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Help Wanted

Dairy Queen in Groton has openings for part-time team members – day hours during the school year and can be year round, if desired. Flexible scheduling. Stop in to apply. 11 East Hwy 12, Groton, SD.

U.S. Poultry Gains New Market Access in Morocco

(Washington, DC, August 7, 2018) – U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced today that the government of Morocco has agreed to allow commercial imports of U.S. poultry meat and products into Morocco for the first time.

“The Trump Administration continues to prioritize the opening of new markets for U.S. agricultural products. This new access to the Moroccan market is an important step in ensuring that American farmers and ranchers can continue to expand their exports,” said Ambassador Lighthizer. “I welcome Morocco’s agreement to allow imports of U.S. poultry meat and products and the economic opportunities that will be afforded to U.S. producers.”

“Opening new markets for American poultry and other agricultural products is a top priority. I am convinced that when the Moroccan people get a taste of U.S. poultry, they’re going to want more of it,” said Secretary Perdue. “The products that will be imported into Morocco are safe, wholesome, and very delicious. This is also a good harbinger of the kind of relationship that can be developed. We hope there are other things we can cooperate on as USDA works to expand markets around the globe.”

The United States is the world’s second largest poultry exporter, with global sales of poultry meat and products of \$4.3 billion last year. In May 2018, U.S. exports of agricultural products exceeded \$12 billion (latest data available). Initial estimates indicate that Morocco would be a \$10 million market, with additional growth over time. Morocco had prohibited imports of U.S. poultry. Officials from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Agriculture worked with the Moroccan government to provide assurances on the safety of U.S. poultry.

CONSIGNMENT AUCTION Sat. Aug. 18, 2018 10:00 am

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Doctor's Orders! Get Outdoors & Get Active with the Park Prescription Project

By Lura Roti for SDSU Extension/iGrow.org

Workdays are focused on helping his patients, young and old, feel better. But, when family practice doctor Chad Thury has some time for himself and his family, he likes to get outdoors and spend time in South Dakota's parks.

"I grew up on a South Dakota farm and have always enjoyed being outside. As a family, we try to get out, hit local park trails or go camping," Thury said.

He encourages his patients to do the same with the help of the Park Prescription Project.

Through the Park Prescription Project, healthcare providers, like Thury, can prescribe patients free 1-day park passes to enjoy one of more than 60 South Dakota State Parks.

"This is another tool to motivate folks to get outside and exercise," explained Thury, who prescribes park passes to patients who are struggling with exercise. "This is designed to spark physical activity in a way that is fresh, new and different. When you walk or bike through one of our State Parks, there is always a change of scenery - different plants and animals to see - much different than working out on a treadmill in the basement."

Made available through a collaborative partnership between SDSU Extension, South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota Department of Health, the Park Prescription Project is designed to encourage physical activity among South Dakotans of all ages.

"Many South Dakota adults and children fall short of meeting the recommended physical activity levels," explained Nikki Prosch, SDSU Extension health & physical activity field specialist and coordinator of the Park Prescription Project. "When a healthcare provider prescribes a free 1-day pass to any South Dakota State Park, it's our hope this encourages patients to engage in physical activity in the wonderful park system we have available in our state."

The park system provides visitors with breathtaking scenery, nature trails and much more, explained Emilie Miller, visitor services coordinator for S.D. Game, Fish & Parks. "Year-round there are activities South Dakotans can enjoy in our parks, from the typical biking, walking and hiking to disc golf, kayaking, canoeing and snowshoeing," Miller said.

And, if visitors don't have equipment, many state parks rent or checkout equipment like bikes, canoes, kayaks and snowshoes.

Outdoor wellness centers

The Park Prescription Project was inspired by statistics which show South Dakotans need more physical activity. According to the 2015 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), only 19.3 percent of South Dakota adults participated in enough aerobic and strength training exercises to meet the guidelines. Additionally, the 2016 BRFSS documents the prevalence of adult obesity at 29.6 percent, and a 2017 South Dakota Department of Health survey showed obesity rates in children ages 5-19 at 16 percent.

"The statistics are not getting any better. I'm amazed at the number of new diabetic patients I diagnose each month," Thury said.

Diabetes is just one of the many health risks connected to lack of physical activity. And, one of many reasons to get active, said Prosch. She points to research that shows physical activity to be an effective behavior to prevent certain chronic diseases, and in some cases, help treat or monitor others.

"Physical activity decreases an individual's risk of cardiovascular disease and may also serve as a disease management behavior for individuals already diagnosed with cardiovascular disease," Prosch said. "It can also improve muscular fitness, help prevent falls, assist with weight management and improve cognitive function in older adults."

Because conversations about weight can be uncomfortable and complex, the Park Prescription Project is designed to help, explained Larissa Skjonsberg, nutrition & physical activity program director for the S.D. Department of Health. "It is really focused on engaging healthcare providers and patients in a discussion

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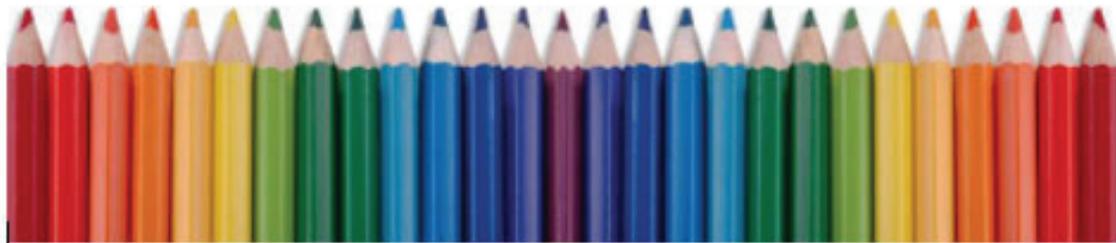
about physical activity in a way that is positive and has a bit of an incentive.”

Thury would agree.

“Patients and their friends or family can go to a state park for free and maybe they will fall in love with an activity like hiking,” he said, adding that if patients want more, an annual pass to South Dakota State Parks is only \$30. “You can’t get a gym membership to walk on a treadmill for that.”

To learn more about the project, request a prescription pad (healthcare professionals only) or to request outreach to your healthcare provider so they can participate in the project, contact Prosch at nikki.prosch@sdstate.edu or visit <http://healthysd.gov/park-rx-prescribe-a-day-in-the-park/>. Healthcare professionals can request a prescription pad at healthysd.gov/parkrx-hcp.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE



**GROTON CARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER
HAS BACK TO SCHOOL SPIRIT! STARTING
AUGUST 1ST THRU AUGUST 20TH WE WILL BE
COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT THE
FACILITY TO GIVE TO THE GROTON AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT.**



Rounds Announces New Northeast Area Regional Director

PIERRE - U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today announced that Jennifer Hieb has been hired to serve as his Northeast Area Regional Director. She replaces Josh Haeder, who is stepping down later this month, and is based in Rounds' Aberdeen office.

"Jen has served in a variety of marketing and leadership roles throughout her career," said Rounds. "Her experience, along with her desire to serve others, will be a tremendous asset to my office and the Northeast region. I look forward to having Jen join our team as we continue to provide the best possible constituent services across the state."

Hieb most recently served as secretary for the School of Education at Northern State University. She previously worked as director of marketing for Aberdeen Wings of the NAHL and as Vice President for Advancement at Presentation College. A native of Tripp and graduate of Augustana University in Sioux Falls, Hieb has lived in Aberdeen with her husband, Jack, and their three sons for more than 20 years.

Northern to give away \$7,000 in scholarships during Brown County Fair

ABERDEEN, S.D. – For the second year in a row, Brown County Fair-goers will have a chance to win money to attend Northern State University.

Northern is giving away \$7,000 in scholarships for fall 2019. That's seven \$1,000 scholarships, or one for each day of the fair, which runs Aug. 13-19 at the Brown County Fairgrounds.

"Last year's scholarship giveaway drew a lot of interest, and we're looking forward to going back to the Brown County Fair again this year," said Dr. Jeremy Reed, vice president of enrollment management and student affairs. "We have even more exciting projects to talk about, with so much positive momentum on campus, and we can't wait to visit with high school students and their families and assist them with any questions they have about their college search."

For a chance to win a scholarship, stop by Northern's booth at the fair and fill out an NSU Learn More card. Northern will be set up in booth 00L, located just inside the Expo doors. The booth will have a different theme each day:

- Wednesday, Aug. 15: Fine Arts Day
- Thursday, Aug. 16: School of Education Day (kids day at the fair)
- Friday, Aug. 17: High School Dual Credit Day
- Saturday, Aug. 18: Athletics Day
- Sunday, Aug. 19: Alumni Day

Promotional items and giveaways will be available throughout the week.

Scholarships are for the fall 2019 semester at Northern State University. Full-time, degree-seeking fall 2019 freshmen, transfer, graduate and online/distance students are eligible.

The scholarship drawing will be held Aug. 31, 2018. Seven winners will be randomly selected and announced via NSU social media.

For more information, contact NSU Admissions at 1-800-678-5330 or info@northern.edu. For complete details on the scholarship giveaway, visit [NSU's Brown County Fair Scholarships webpage](#).

Most Expensive August Pump Prices Since 2014 as Demand for Gasoline Soars

August 6, 2018 - At 9.88 million b/d, gasoline demand last week was near an all-time record high according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). The boost in demand and drop in inventory have driven the national gas price average to \$2.87, which is the most expensive gas price seen in August since 2014.

"We are likely going to see an end of summer pump price rally as inventories continue to tighten, especially on the East Coast," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "This week's EIA demand and inventory reports will give further indication of how much higher the national gas price average could jump before summer is over."

While today's gas price average is one-cent more than last week, it is the same price as one month ago, yet 52-cents more than this time last year.

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.899

Yesterday Avg. \$2.899

Week Ago Avg. \$2.881

Month Ago Avg. \$2.875

Year Ago Avg. \$2.357

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.76), California (\$3.62), Washington (\$3.40), Alaska (\$3.37), Oregon (\$3.28), Nevada (\$3.20), Idaho (\$3.15), Utah (\$3.08), Connecticut (\$3.07) and Pennsylvania (\$3.06).

The nation's top 10 largest monthly changes are: New Mexico (-11 cents), Arizona (-10 cents), Delaware (+9 cents), Utah (-7 cents), South Carolina (+6 cents), Georgia (+5 cents), Nevada (-5 cents), Colorado (-5 cents), Kentucky (-5 cents) and Alabama (+4 cents)

Central and Great Lakes Region

Unlike most states in the country, Michigan's gas price average dropped quite a bit on the week: eight cents. Now, Michigan (\$2.92) has fallen from the most expensive Great Lakes and Central state to the second spot behind Illinois (\$2.94).

With the exception of Michigan, Kentucky (-2 cents) and Kansas (-1 cent) all state gas price averages in the Great Lakes and Central region are more expensive compared to last Monday. The largest jumps on the week were Minnesota (+3 cents), Wisconsin (+2 cents) Illinois (+2 cents) and South Dakota (+2 cents).

Gasoline inventories continue to tighten in the region following the fourth consecutive weekly draw.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI dropped 47 cents to settle at \$68.49. Oil prices made some gains last week, but are ending at a loss after EIA reported that total oil inventories across the country grew by 5.6 million bbl last week. The build in crude stocks was supported by crude exports falling to 1.31 million b/d.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

AAA provides automotive, travel, and insurance services to 58 million members nationwide and nearly 97,000 members in South Dakota. AAA advocates for the safety and mobility of its members and has been committed to outstanding road service for more than 100 years. AAA is a non-stock, non-profit corporation working on behalf of motorists, who can now map a route, find local gas prices, discover discounts, book a hotel, and track their roadside assistance service with the AAA Mobile app (AAA.com/mobile) for iPhone, iPad and Android. For more information, visit www.AAA.com.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

Seasons Change, but Commitment to Serve Does Not

Once the celebrations of the Fourth of July are behind us we have the tendencies to start cramming as much summer fun as we can into our calendars.

We are getting close to turning the pages from summer to fall. Pools will be closing and school doors will be opening. We will be putting away the boats, jet skis, bikes, and lawn mowers and we will be getting out the rakes and servicing the snow blowers.

Our troops serving don't have the opportunity to enjoy the season changes – they work in severe cold, sudden thaws, heavy rains, great heat, and high winds as each war zone has its own special climate.

Our country's military has left a legacy like no other fighting force ever assembled. The uniforms they wear, and the flag they carry, are held in esteem wherever they have served. And that is their finest tribute. Across the world, to people who struggle and suffer, the sight of an American in uniform has meant hope, relief, and deliverance.

Our troops live and perform by a creed to serve the people of this great country by carrying out their mission. There are no seasonal distractions for them.

Whatever the season, make sure to plan time with family and friends. Make sure to remember our troops that are serving. They are the guardians of our freedom and the way of life we have come to love. We depend on their sacrifices.

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary

Make Your Voice Heard at the SD State Fair

HURON, S.D. - Local singers can make their voices heard at the Dakota Star Talent Competition sponsored by Dakotaland Federal Credit Union at the South Dakota State Fair. More than \$2,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to Dakota Star division winners.

The grand prize winner in the adult division wins the title of "2018 Dakota Star," along with a cash prize of \$1,000 and the opportunity to star in his/her own commercial promoting Dakota Star on KTTW Fox. In addition, the winner will be awarded a three-hour recording studio session with Cathouse Studio and the opportunity to perform on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage during the 2019 South Dakota State Fair, as well as emcee the 2019 Dakota Star talent competition.

"I had a good time during the competition. I enjoy playing my original songs for people," said Dayna Jones, the 2017 Dakota Star from Emery, S.D. "What's really great is that, win or lose, you can connect and network with others who are also interested in music and songwriting."

There are three age divisions for Dakota Star – Children (up to 11 years), Junior (12 through 17 years) and Adult (18 years and older). Applications for the 16th Annual Dakota Star Talent Competition sponsored by Dakotaland Federal Credit Union are now available online at www.sdstatefair.com or at the State Fair office. The deadline for entering the talent competition is Monday, Aug. 20, at 5 p.m.

Preliminary competition begins on Friday, Aug. 31, and ends on Sunday, Sept. 2. Dakota Star finals will be held on Monday, Sept. 3. The talent competition is held on the NorthWestern Energy Freedom Stage.

Sponsors of the 2018 Dakota Star are Dakotaland Federal Credit Union and KTTW-FOX. Dakotaland Federal Credit Union has locations in Huron, Volga, Brookings, Madison, Aberdeen, Redfield, DeSmet, Mitchell, Woonsocket and Watertown. With 30,000 members and \$320 million in assets, Dakotaland continues to be locally owned and operated, offering a full-line of financial services to its membership since 1935.

The 2018 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Aug. 30, through Monday, Sept. 3. Channel Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, Aug. 29. This year's theme is "Experience the Magic." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800.529.0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture's mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit us online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

SD school districts increasingly rely on opt-outs to supplement budgets

By T.D. Griffith

For South Dakota News Watch

While South Dakota teachers have earned raises over the past two years courtesy of a new half-cent sales tax, school districts across the state continue to struggle with their budgets.

Nominal increases in state aid to education have crippled local budgets and caused many districts to consider significant programming cuts or opt-outs to raise additional funds.

More than 44 percent of South Dakota's 149 school districts currently have opt-outs in place, allowing them to raise additional operating funds by levying taxes on property owners within their district. And, with meager increases in state funding in recent years, education officials and superintendents across the state expect that opt-out trend to continue or even grow.

"Two years ago, we got a .3 percent increase in state aid, and the 2018 legislative session did a 1 percent increase plus .7 percent in one-time dollars," said Wade Pogany, executive director of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. "If you're a school district, you can't live on .3 and 1 percent increases. That just doesn't work. It's hard to keep up with costs and current programs with those types of increases."

South Dakota law provides the opt-out mechanism for school districts to raise additional revenues for their general funds beyond the amount generated by the existing tax levy and money from state aid. An opt-out allows the district to impose a higher tax levy.

After an opt-out is approved by the school board, district patrons can refer it to a public vote.

Pogany, whose nonprofit organization represents more than 850 local school board members, said 66 South Dakota school districts presently have opt-outs in place, and many others have diverted dollars from their capital outlay accounts to cover shortfalls in their general fund.

"A lot of folks are looking at this," he said. "This will affect schools in the future."

Although the state Legislature pumped an additional \$65 million into education in 2016, courtesy of a new half-cent sales tax, 85 percent of those new revenues were mandated for teacher salary increases, Pogany said. Although that pay raise moved South Dakota teachers from 51st to 48th in the nation in teacher compensation, over the past two years school districts have worked to give comparable raises to administrators, para-professionals, bus drivers and lunchroom staff, he said.

While some districts, including Brookings and Spearfish, have experienced increasing student enrollment and thus, have received increased state aid, many rural districts are facing a decidedly different situation.

"The rural nature of the state and our small schools, many with declining enrollment, means there are a lot of pressures when those factors are in place," Pogany said. "They're struggling. Unless you have more kids, you scramble to get as many tax dollars as you can."

Opt-out victories can take time

Faced with a district that has grown by 173 students over the last decade, West Central School District brought an opt-out question to voters two years ago. The measure was defeated, putting the district on fragile financial footing and leading its school board to consider major cuts to programming and staff.

"The previous superintendent, school board and business manager all did their very best to keep expenditures down," said West Central Superintendent Brad Berens, who recently completed his first year at the district which includes the towns of Hartford and Humboldt. "But, we were still faced with going into reserves and transferring \$200,000 from our capital outlay budget to the general fund."

Among those potential cutbacks were eliminating art instruction (\$48,000), nixing a full-time English teacher at the high school (\$52,000), reducing maintenance and custodians (\$80,000), dropping gymnastics and replacement athletic uniforms (\$46,000), and various other cost-saving measures that totaled \$284,000 annually.

"We tried to get accurate information out to the public and we held sessions for the public to give input on what they believed were the priorities for our school district," said Berens. "We also shared with the public what would be cut if the opt-out failed."

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Faced with staff reductions and programs on the chopping block, West Central voters returned to the ballot booths in May and approved a \$400,000 per year, four-year opt-out that secured those positions and programs for the foreseeable future. The vote was 777 - 435 in favor of the measure.

"I know that many schools have tried an opt-out and failed," Berens said. "West Central had that same situation two years ago. I find it encouraging that the voters have agreed to increase their investment in providing quality educational services for the students of the West Central School District."

When an opt-out fails

Brookings School District was facing budgetary challenges far beyond increased student enrollment when it sought approval from voters in April for an opt-out of up to \$5.1 million per year for 10 years.

"What we've seen over the past four years is about 8 percent growth in our student population," said Brookings Superintendent Clint Willert. "In that same period, however, we've seen a 28 percent increase in the number of students with some type of special education need, and at the same time, about a 120 percent increase in students who are non-English speakers.

"So, our demographics in the Brookings School District are changing pretty significantly," he said. "In the midst of all that, we serve '504-plan' children, students not identified with special education needs, but with something that's happened to them that affects a major life function."

In a presentation prepared for voters in advance of the municipal election, Brookings School District noted that its 2017 enrollment stood at 3,421. But that number was projected to blossom to 3,775 by 2025.

Added funding from the proposed opt-out would support three key areas according to the plan:

- Student Support and Instruction, including reading teachers, reading interventionists to assist struggling students, certified librarians, counselors, nurses, technology support, an alternative education school, remedial summer school and class-size reductions

- Staff Support to include reading coaches, staff development, elementary curriculum director, a director of career and technical education, instructional coaches, a dean of students, and a behavior room for students

- Improvements to District Operations, including a new human resources director, a foundation executive director and bolstered transportation operations.

In addition, opt-out funds would have been used to erase a projected deficit of \$185,000; address the eventual loss of the district's pension fund; eliminate the district's current use of \$300,000 of capital outlay funds for its general fund; and provide two additional classroom teachers at a projected cost of \$123,000.

The opt-out would have resulted in less than \$40 per month in added property taxes on a home with a taxable valuation of \$200,000, according to district estimates.

But, when voters went to the polls on April 10 to determine the fate of the opt-out, they rejected it by nearly a 3-1 margin. With nearly 3,700 votes cast, Brookings voted 2,768 (74.93 percent) against and 859 (25.25 percent) in favor. State law requires a two-thirds vote for a tax opt-out to pass.

"The plan was to create a sustainable future," Willert said. "The Brookings School Board was committed to creating a sustainable and predictable funding source. We know legislatively that we haven't had predictable funding. But, I was certainly hopeful that it would have been a different outcome."

Brookings budget forecasts predict the school district is about two-and-a-half budget cycles "from having to make some very significant changes in our district," Willert said. "We haven't identified what likely will be cut, but when you consider that over 70 percent of the budget is people, that's the logical place where the school district is going to have to go."

The superintendent said he expected his school board would return to voters in the future with a more modest opt-out proposal.

"I can't speak for the board, but I envision that somewhere down the road we will need to have that conversation," he said. "If we are even going to maintain what we have, or improve some areas like career and technical education, we will have to seek another opt-out."

A continuing trend

Pogany said he regularly fields budget questions from school board members and district superintendents asking, "What else can we do?"

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"We're watching this very carefully," Pogany said. "The pressure points schools are facing means the trend toward opt-outs will increase. To maintain programs, you either have the state increasing funding or you use an opt-out, which can be subject to a vote of the taxpayers. The other option is significant cuts."

Education funding is likely to be discussed in upcoming legislative sessions. The merits of the state's current funding formula have been discussed by both candidates for governor. The formula is set to be reviewed later this year.

In the meantime, school boards and administrators will wrestle with solutions to budget challenges.

Pogany said voters rely on a variety of arguments to oppose an opt-out, including the "I don't have kids in school phenomenon," or "I'm not convinced you've made enough cuts."

But, when voters reject an opt-out, he said, they must understand that the alternative faced by a school board is generally providing students with fewer programs and larger class sizes.

"That said, given what we've seen over the last 10 years, the trend of opt-outs will only continue to grow," he said.

This story was reported by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit news organization.

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Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to golf ball size was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized hail near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles, and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.

1924: A tornado caused estimated F4 damage moved southeast from south of Osseo, WI to Black River Falls, WI. One person was killed as a home was leveled and a boy was killed running to the storm cellar near the start of the path. Two people died as farm homes were swept away near the northeast edge of Black River Falls. Damage totaled \$200,000 as 50 farms were hit and buildings were unroofed in the town of Northfield. The tornado followed the present route of Interstate 94.

1980: Hurricane Allen bottomed out at 899 millibars (26.55 inches of mercury) while moving through the Yucatan Channel in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Allen was the second lowest pressure ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere up to that time. Allen's winds at the time were sustained at 190 mph.

1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, CO, washed a train from the tracks killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent drowning the occupants. Rail service was frequently interrupted in the Rocky Mountain Region and southwestern U.S. that summer due to numerous heavy downpours which washed out the railroad beds delaying trains as much as five days. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Philadelphia, PA, established an all-time record with a high of 106 degrees. New York City experienced its warmest day and night with a low of 82 degrees and a high of 102 degrees. Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Flemington NJ and Somerville NJ established state records for the month of August. (The Weather Channel) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1984 - El Paso, TX, normally receives 1.21 inches of rain in August. They got it in forty-five minutes, with four more inches to boot, during a storm which left Downtown El Paso under five feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A rare outbreak of seven tornadoes occurred in New England. One tornado carved its way through Cranston RI and Providence RI causing twenty injuries. Rhode Island had not reported a tornado in twelve years, and three touched down in 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Goldsboro, NC, with 3.37 inches of rain. Late morning thunderstorms in Arizona produced dime size hail, wind gusts to 50 mph, and two inches of rain, at Sierra Vista. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco, TX, with a reading of 107 degrees. The record high of 88 degrees at Marquette, MI, was their twenty-third of the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with wind gusts to 81 mph reported at McCool, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty cities in the central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Valentine, NE, with a reading of 40 degrees, and Belcourt ND with a low of 37 degrees. Martin SD was the cold spot in the nation with a morning low of 30 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed over Florida and Washington State, with record highs of 100 degrees at Daytona Beach, FL, 101 degrees at Walla Walla, WA, and 103 degrees at Hanford, WA. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today



Hot

High: 90 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 61 °F

Wednesday



Hot

High: 95 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 58 °F

Thursday



Hot

High: 90 °F

Hot & Dry Conditions Through The Week

Tuesday



Highs:
Mid 80s - Low 90s

Wednesday



Morning Lows:
Low 60s
Highs:
Low - Mid 90s

Thursday



Morning Lows:
Low 60s
Highs:
Upper 80s - Mid 90s

Friday



Morning Lows:
Low 60s
Highs:
Upper 80s - Mid 90s



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 8/7/2018 3:55 AM Central

A dry weather pattern will set up for the next few days. Ample sunshine and good mixing will allow readings to top out several degrees above average, though with low humidity temperatures at night will be pleasant.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 86.3 F at 3:49 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 62.8 F at 7:00 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 5:11 PM

Precip: 0.25

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1949

Record Low: 42° in 1921

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in Aug: 0.47

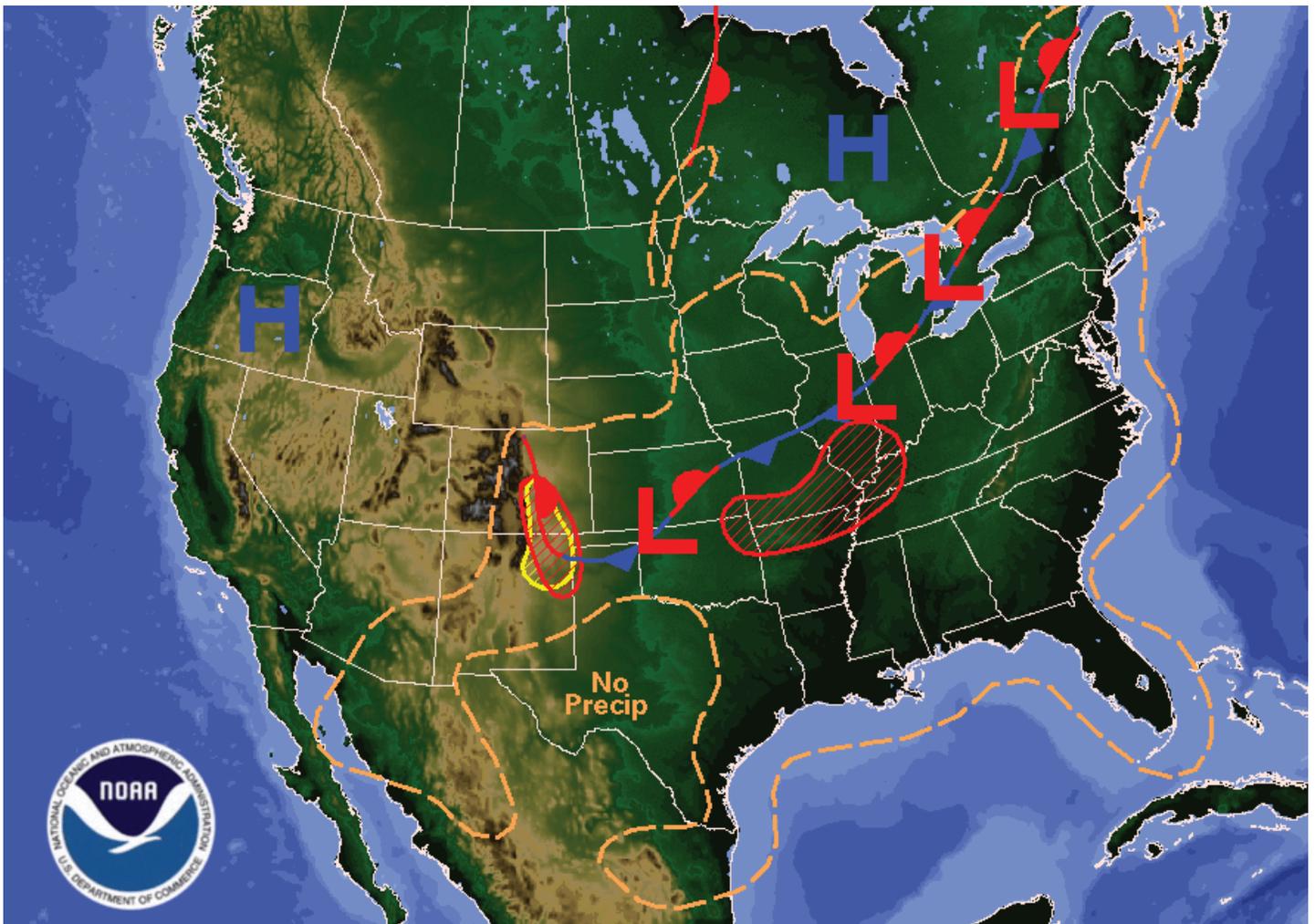
Precip to date in Aug: 0.25

Average Precip to date: 14.33

Precip Year to Date: 10.14

Sunset Tonight: 8:53 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:26 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Aug 07, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain

Rain and T'Storms

Rain and Snow

Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)

Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)

Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)

Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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LIVING AND LAUGHING

The way things are in this world, I'm certain that your God never laughs, said a skeptic.

Well, I'm not sure if He laughs or not. But I am sure of one thing: He certainly created me so that I can laugh, said his friend with a smile.

Some people think that tears and trials, grunts and groans are the centerpieces of the Christian life. The real fact is that tears and trials, grunts and groans are more associated with sin than they are with salvation. And, to emphasize that fact, God's Word promises us that one day, He will wipe away all tears from the eyes of the believer - not the unsaved.

A physician once said that he who laughs, lasts. People who laugh live longer than those who don't laugh. Few people realize that their health varies according to the amount of laughter in their lives. Would it not be wonderful if each time we felt discouraged we could go to the pharmacy and find an over-the-counter bottle that contained a tablet to make us laugh?

Not only are laughter and health related, but laughter and holiness are related. When the Lord brought His exiles back to Jerusalem, a Psalmist wrote, Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, The Lord has done great things for them.

If there are people, who have a reason to laugh and sing songs of joy, it is Christians. Our sins are forgiven, and we are released from the fear and penalty of death. We have the promise of an eternal home with the Creator of the universe and His beloved Son, Jesus, who redeemed us. And, we have the power and presence of the Holy Spirit to guide, guard and give us peace that passes all understanding.

What great reasons to laugh and sing songs of joy!

Prayer: It's difficult to understand, Lord, why there are so many days we fail to laugh and rejoice. Bring us all some humor today! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 126:2 Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, The Lord has done great things for them.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2018 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/22/2018 Summer Fest (4th Sunday in July)
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

News from the Associated Press

Daugaard seeks to clear barrier to enforcing sales tax law

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday that he's considering calling a special legislative session to remove a barrier to enforcing South Dakota's requirement that many out-of-state internet retailers collect sales taxes.

The potential special session comes after a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the state's favor that opened the door for consumers to see sales tax on more online purchases from out-of-state companies. It sent the law back to South Dakota's highest court to be revisited.

But the state currently can't enforce the online sales tax requirement because of an injunction in place under state law until the case ends. The Republican governor said that if he calls a special session, he would seek in part to give the court flexibility to remove the injunction even if the case proceeds.

"If our opponents drag out the local court case in South Dakota, we could be in the paradoxical situation where we led the charge and all the other states are starting to collect, and we can't," Daugaard told the Rotary Club of Downtown Sioux Falls.

It was a South Dakota case that led to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn two decades-old high court decisions that have made it tougher for states to collect sales taxes for certain purchases online, a situation they said costs them revenue each year. South Dakota has estimated it loses about \$50 million annually to e-commerce.

South Dakota's law applies to sellers outside the state who do more than \$100,000 of business in South Dakota or more than 200 transactions annually with state residents.

Another topic of the potential special session could be creating a license for websites such as eBay that provide marketplaces for other merchants — but don't sell products themselves — to collect sales taxes for the retailers that use the platforms.

Daugaard said the potential session could be in August or September.

More cases of anthrax confirmed in South Dakota livestock

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — More cases of anthrax have been confirmed in South Dakota livestock this year.

State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven (OH'-dih-koh-ven) has confirmed the disease was diagnosed in a group of 300 unvaccinated yearling cattle in Butte County, in western South Dakota.

Butte is the fourth county where anthrax has been diagnosed in 2018, following Clark, Bon Homme and Hamlin counties.

Anthrax spores can survive indefinitely in contaminated soil, and the potential for outbreaks exists across South Dakota. Drought, floods and winds can expose anthrax spores to livestock.

Anthrax can cause the rapid loss of a large number of animals in a short time. Infected livestock often are found dead with no illness detected. Producers across South Dakota should consult their veterinaries and vaccinate livestock, if appropriate.

Trial delayed for doctor accused of abusing Blackfeet boys

GREAT FALLS, Mont. (AP) — A former Indian Health Service pediatrician accused of sexually abusing young boys on Montana's Blackfeet Indian Reservation two decades ago had his trial delayed Monday because of "an unforeseen issue," court officials said.

Stanley Patrick Weber, 69, is charged with aggravated sexual abuse and attempted sexual abuse of two boys under 14 when he worked on the reservation between 1992 and 1995.

He also is accused of abusing four other boys after he was assigned to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation in 1995, where he worked until he left the Indian Health Service in 2016. Those charges are still pending, but federal prosecutors are expected to call them to testify in the Montana trial.

Weber has pleaded not guilty to the charges. His attorneys did not respond to an email request for comment.

The trial in Great Falls was supposed to get underway Monday with jury selection, but it was rescheduled to Sept. 4 over what U.S. District Court officials described in the docket without elaboration as "an unforeseen issue (that) arose over the weekend."

Prosecutors accuse Weber of abusing one boy on multiple occasions at his office during exams and abusing or trying to abuse the other boy at Weber's home, where the pediatrician would frequently host juvenile boys.

Prosecutors said Weber groomed potential victims by plying them with money, candy, alcohol, video games and trips, earning their trust and teaching them about sexual activity before isolating and abusing them.

Dakota Access developer amends \$1B racketeering lawsuit

By **BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline on Monday amended a \$1 billion racketeering lawsuit it filed last August against three environmental entities after a federal judge criticized the original filing as vague and threatened to throw it out of court.

The latest blow to the lawsuit came Friday, when U.S. District Judge Billy Roy Wilson said Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners hadn't proven its case against the Earth First environmental movement, though he said it could sue individual members if it had enough evidence.

ETP on Monday added five individual defendants: a man allegedly affiliated with Greenpeace, two Iowa women who have publicly claimed to have vandalized the pipeline, and two people associated with the Red Warrior Camp, a protest group alleged to have advocated aggressive tactics such as arson.

The company also amended its accusations, limiting defamation and business interference claims to Greenpeace and adding a criminal trespass count against all defendants.

"We are confident this move to include even more bogus claims in an already broad and baseless case will be the final nail in the coffin of a sham legal tactic," said Greenpeace attorney Deepa Padmanabha.

ETP initially sued Greenpeace, BankTrack and Earth First, alleging the "rogue eco-terrorist groups" worked to undermine the \$3.8 billion pipeline that's now moving oil from North Dakota to Illinois. The groups said the lawsuit was an attack on free speech, and Earth First also maintained it's an unstructured social movement similar to Black Lives Matter and can't be sued.

Wilson on July 24 dismissed BankTrack for lack of evidence, a day after he had ordered ETP to show why Earth First shouldn't be tossed. Company attorneys countered that Earth First should be held accountable for "eco-terrorist activities" and argued that ETP at the very least should be given permission to add the Florida-based Earth First Journal to the lawsuit.

The company had tried earlier to serve the lawsuit on the Journal, but the publication effectively argued it was not the same as the movement.

Wilson on Friday ruled that naming the Journal as a defendant "would be futile and possibly frivolous." He also denied ETP the opportunity to gather more evidence to prove its case.

The Center for Constitutional Rights, which represents the Journal, issued a statement praising Wilson's ruling. Journal Editor Grayson Flory said ETP "is trying to distract us from their continued destruction of communities and the environment by concocting an elaborate story."

The company alleges the groups disseminated false and misleading information about the pipeline, interfered with construction and company business, facilitated terrorism, incited violence, targeted financial institutions that backed the project, and violated racketeering laws.

Wilson said he would allow ETP to add to the lawsuit "any person or entity" directly responsible for such acts, though he added that any additions must be supported by evidence.

"It is clear ... that plaintiffs did not, at the time of filing, have evidentiary support for the specific allegations against (Earth First)," Wilson wrote.

___ Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Drug arrests up at Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officers have made more drug arrests at this year's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, but fewer people were arrested for drunken driving so far.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says misdemeanor drug arrests from 6 a.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Monday increased to 56 from 44 last year as the annual 10-day rally opened. Twenty-one felony drug arrests were made compared to 7 in 2017.

Thirty-six people were arrested for driving under the influence. That's down from 49 during the same time last year.

Rally organizers say 500,000 riders and others are expected to descend on Sturgis, which has a population of about 6,900.

Federal inspectors visit South Dakota reservation hospital

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — The emergency department at the Indian Health Service hospital on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation is under scrutiny again.

Federal inspectors from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services surveyed the hospital in late July, the Argus Leader reported. The inspection results weren't immediately available.

Tribal leaders said they've lost hope of turning things around at the hospital after two years with little progress.

"I guess I got my hopes up a little bit there," said Rosebud Sioux Tribal President William Kindle. "I shouldn't have."

Inspectors in 2015 found that employees hand-washed surgical instruments when a sterilizer broke, didn't communicate that a patient had an untreated case of Tuberculosis and failed to monitor a patient who delivered a baby prematurely on a bathroom floor.

The Indian Health Service shuttered the hospital's emergency room in 2016. Indian Health Service officials worked to improve care at the facility and later reopened the emergency department, but closed the hospital's surgical and obstetrics and gynecology units.

IHS officials hired outside contractor AB Staffing Solutions to run the emergency department for at least a year as part of an agreement to keep a key federal funding source.

"This new contract underscores the IHS commitment to pursuing creative new solutions that ensure high-quality care for our patients, who are our top priority," Mary Smith, then-IHS principal deputy director, said in a statement.

Arizona-based Tribal Emergency Medicine then took over the contract in 2017.

The tribe sued the federal government after the ER closed, stating that the government failed to meet a treaty obligation to provide health care to enrolled tribal members. The case is ongoing.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Hundreds of Basin Electric Power employees taking buyouts

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — More than 300 Basin Electric Power Cooperative employees are taking buyouts as the North Dakota-based utility tries to cut costs amid a plummeting financial outlook.

Spokesman Curt Pearson told The Bismarck Tribune that Basin's latest financial forecast predicts a decade of losses at subsidiary Dakota Gasification Co., which operates the Great Plains Synfuels Plant near Beulah. Pearson declined to disclose the total predicted losses.

"The things we've done to date have not been quite enough," Pearson said. "Markets have been changing so fast it was time to take additional steps."

Dakota Gasification has endured several years of losses as it struggles to compete with cheap natural gas made available by hydraulic fracturing in the Bakken oil field. The plant has had more than \$212 million in net losses over the past three years, according to the cooperative's annual reports.

Utility rate increases have helped keep the co-op financially afloat, but Pearson said that isn't expected to last.

The majority of co-op employees taking buyouts are from North Dakota, though some are from South Dakota and Wyoming.

Management has accepted all those who've applied for the buyout, Pearson said, adding that officials will take the next month to determine if additional cuts are needed.

A hiring freeze that was instituted three years ago will also continue. Basin has also laid off about 30 probationary employees.

Basin Electric employs about 2,000 people and serves rural electric systems in nine states.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Police: Impaired driver hits Sip-N-Cycle in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say eight people were injured when an impaired driver crashed into a Sip-N-Cycle in downtown Sioux Falls.

The Argus Leader reports 25-year-old Justin Rabago allegedly hit the occupied party bike on Saturday night. Police spokesman Sam Clemens says the injuries were mostly minor, but one person suffered broken bones and possible brain bleeding.

Clemens says officers at the scene alleged Rabago had been using meth or marijuana before the crash. Blood work results are pending.

Rabago is facing charges of vehicular battery, DUI third offense, driving without a license and driving without insurance. It wasn't immediately clear if he has a defense attorney.

This story has been corrected to show that Rabago is accused of impaired driving, not drunken driving.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Former Spearfish fire chief pleads not guilty to embezzling

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A former volunteer chief with the Spearfish Fire Department has pleaded not guilty to embezzling from the organization.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports that 50-year-old Lloyd Hesper Jr. was charged in late June with grand theft. It's punishable by up to 10 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines. He's free on \$1,500 bond.

Hesper is accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars over a period of about two years ending last March. The exact amount is still being determined.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

2 killed on second day of Sturgis Motorcycle Rally

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — Two people have died in crashes on the second day of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Authorities say a motorcyclist missed a curve on Highway 85 Saturday afternoon, went into a ditch and through a fence. The driver was thrown from the bike and was pronounced dead at the scene.

In another fatal crash Saturday the driver of a utility terrain vehicle, a 53-year-old man, died after he missed a curve east of Deadwood and rolled over. A passenger suffered serious injuries.

The rally runs through Aug. 12.

Sioux Falls repeat offender gets 30 years for child porn

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man who previously served time for child exploitation has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for child pornography crimes.

The U.S. attorney's office says 33-year-old Jason Jorgenson was caught receiving and distributing child porn from his home, after the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children tipped off Homeland Security.

Jorgenson was indicted in May 2017 and pleaded guilty this past April.

Jorgenson had been released from prison in September 2016 after serving a four-year sentence for a child exploitation conviction.

Star witness Gates to detail Manafort's finances

By CHAD DAY and MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — One day after coming face-to-face in federal court with his longtime boss, Rick Gates returns to the witness stand as the government's star witness in the financial fraud trial of President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman.

Gates, in hours of hugely anticipated testimony, calmly acknowledged having embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Paul Manafort and said the two had committed crimes together by stashing money in foreign bank accounts and falsifying bank loan documents.

Prosecutors summoned Gates, described by witnesses as Manafort's "right-hand man," to give jurors the direct account of a co-conspirator they say carried out an elaborate offshore tax-evasion and fraud scheme on behalf of his boss.

Manafort and Gates were the first two people indicted in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential ties between Russia and the Trump campaign. But Gates pleaded guilty months later and agreed to cooperate in Mueller's investigation of Manafort, the only American charged by the special counsel to opt for trial instead of a guilty plea.

Gates is expected to continue testifying for several hours Tuesday and is expected to face a bruising cross-examination as defense lawyers try to undercut his credibility and pin the blame on him. His testimony, given in short, clipped answers as Manafort rarely broke his gaze from the witness stand, follows that of vendors who detailed Manafort's luxurious spending and financial professionals who told jurors how the defendant hid millions of dollars in offshore accounts.

Gates, who is awaiting sentencing, told jurors that he siphoned off the money without Manafort's knowledge by filing false expense reports. He also admitted to concealing millions of dollars in foreign bank accounts on Manafort's behalf and to falsifying loan applications and other documents to help Manafort obtain more in bank loans.

"We didn't report the income or the foreign bank accounts," Gates told jurors, noting that he knew he and Manafort were committing crimes each time.

Gates, who also served in a senior role in Donald Trump's presidential campaign, read off the names of more than a dozen shell companies he and Manafort set up in Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom to stash the proceeds of Manafort's Ukrainian political consulting work.

Gates, who also served in a senior role in Trump's presidential campaign, said he repeatedly lied to conceal the bank accounts and, at Manafort's direction, would classify money that came in as either a loan or income to reduce Manafort's tax burden.

The criminal case has nothing to do with either man's work for the Trump campaign and there's been no discussion during the trial about whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia — the central question Mueller's team has tried to answer. But Trump has shown interest in the proceedings, tweeting support for Manafort and suggesting he had been treated worse than gangster Al Capone.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III, who repeatedly interrupted prosecutors last week as they tried to present evidence about Manafort's lavish life such as \$900,000 in expensive suits and a \$15,000 ostrich jacket, clashed again with prosecutor Greg Andres on Monday when Andres delved into the status and identities of the Eastern Europeans who made payments to Manafort.

Ellis said all that's relevant is that Manafort was paid and whether he hid the income from the IRS.

"It doesn't matter whether these are good people, bad people, oligarchs, Mafia. ... You don't need to

throw mud at these people," Ellis said.

Andres said he was entitled to show the jury why Manafort was getting tens of millions of dollars in payments.

"When we try to describe the work, Your Honor stops us and tell us to move on," he said.

Prosecutors say Manafort used those companies to stash millions of dollars from his Ukrainian consulting work, proceeds he omitted year after year from his income tax returns. Later, they say, when that income dwindled, Manafort launched a different scheme, shoring up his struggling finances by using doctored documents to obtain millions more in bank loans.

All told, prosecutors allege that Manafort failed to report a "significant percentage" of the more than \$60 million they say he received from Ukrainians. They aimed to show jurors how that money flowed from more than a dozen shell companies used to stash the income in Cyprus.

On Friday, a tax preparer named Cindy Laporta admitted that she helped disguise \$900,000 in foreign income as a loan to reduce Manafort's tax burden. Laporta, who testified under an immunity deal with the government, acknowledged that she agreed under pressure from Gates to alter a tax document for one of Manafort's businesses.

Under cross-examination Monday, defense attorney Kevin Downing pressed Laporta on the complexities of Manafort's finances as he worked to paint a picture of a political consultant who left the details to professionals and, in particular, to Gates.

Downing also accused Gates of embezzling "millions," a higher amount than Gates later admitted to in his testimony.

Laporta said she had grown to distrust the information Gates was providing her, though she didn't know about the embezzlement.

But she said she believed Manafort was directing Gates' efforts to disguise loans and conceal income, noting that Manafort was copied on her email traffic with Gates.

"In most instances, it was clear that Mr. Manafort knew what was going on," she said.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

Trump says OH's Balderson would be "great congressman"

By STEVE PEOPLES and JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP) — President Donald Trump's preferred congressional candidate — and his chief legislative achievement — are about to be tested in battleground Ohio in the season's final high-stakes special election.

The midsummer affair comes as Trump's shadow looms over primary contests in four other states on Tuesday, none bigger than Kansas, where the Republican president roiled the governor's race Monday by opposing the sitting GOP governor on the eve of the election.

The races, like dozens before them, pit the strength of the Republican president's fiery coalition against the Democratic Party's anti-Trump resistance. The results will help determine the political landscape — and Trump's standing within his own party — just three months before the GOP defends its House and Senate majorities across the nation.

Voters in Ohio and Kansas join those across Missouri, Michigan and Washington state at the ballot box. But only Ohio will send someone to Congress after the votes are counted.

The script for Ohio's special election is perhaps familiar: An experienced Trump loyalist, two-term state Sen. Troy Balderson, is fighting off a strong challenge from a fresh-faced Democrat, 31-year-old county official Danny O'Connor, in a congressional district held by the Republican Party for more than three decades. In an early, election morning tweet, Trump said Balderson would make a "great congressman."

The winner will fill the seat previously held by Pat Tiberi, a nine-term Republican incumbent who resigned to take a job with an Ohio business group.

Trump himself campaigned at Balderson's side just 72 hours before Election Day, a weekend appearance

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to help energize his loyalists in a district the president carried by 11 percentage points.

But there was little evidence of enthusiasm on the eve of the election as Balderson tried to connect with voters over the phone during a brief stop at a campaign phone bank. He appeared equally uncomfortable answering questions from reporters about whether Trump's appearance might blunt the impact of the recent endorsement from a prominent Trump adversary, Republican Gov. John Kasich.

Balderson said simply that it was an honor and "incredible" to appear with and be supported by the president. He called the race "very close."

"It's going to be tough, but we feel very positive, we feel very good with the amount of volunteers that we've had here, the enthusiasm, the amount of hours that we've put in," Balderson said.

It's unclear, however, whether Trump's support helps or hurts his preferred candidate. Described by campaign operatives as a "Whole Foods" district, the largely suburban region features a far more affluent and educated voter base than the typical Trump stronghold.

Kasich, a leading voice in the GOP's shrinking anti-Trump wing, previously represented the district in Congress.

The race has centered on Trump's tax cuts at times as much as the candidates themselves.

O'Connor and his Democratic allies have railed against the tax plan, casting it as a giveaway for the rich that exacerbates federal deficits and threatens Medicare and Social Security. Balderson and his Republican allies have backed away from the tax plan in recent weeks, training their fire instead on top House Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

O'Connor has dominated Balderson on the local airwaves. His campaign spent \$2.25 million on advertising compared to Balderson's \$507,000, according to campaign tallies of ad spending. The Republican campaign arm and its allied super PAC was forced to pick up the slack, spending more than \$4 million between them.

During a lively event in a Democrat-heavy Columbus neighborhood Monday, O'Connor urged volunteer canvassers to think about what's at stake for working people, including access to affordable health care.

"They do everything right and, right now in Washington, D.C., no one has their back," he said. "That's about to change in 28 hours, because we are sprinting. We are sprinting through the finish line for this race. We are working so hard because we are part of a movement, we are part of a grassroots movement that is going to change the way politics works."

Meanwhile, more than 700 miles to the west, Kansas Republicans were fighting among themselves in the escalating battle for governor, where Secretary of State Kris Kobach was trying to unseat Gov. Jeff Colyer.

Should the polarizing Kobach win, some Republican operatives fear he could lose the governor's seat to Democrats this fall. The race could become further disrupted if Kansas City-area businessman Greg Orman makes it onto the November ballot. He submitted petitions Monday with more than 10,000 signatures for what could become the most serious independent run for Kansas governor in decades.

Trump didn't seem worried about Kobach's prospects.

"He is a fantastic guy who loves his State and our Country - he will be a GREAT Governor and has my full & total Endorsement! Strong on Crime, Border & Military," the president tweeted on the eve of the election. "VOTE TUESDAY!"

Republicans are hoping for Democratic discord in Kansas' 3rd Congressional District, a suburban Kansas City region where several candidates are fighting for the chance to take on Republican Rep. Kevin Yoder in November.

The five-way Democratic primary features labor lawyer Brent Welder, who campaigned recently with self-described democratic socialists Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and ascending political star, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a New York congressional candidate.

Also in the race: Native American attorney Sharice Davids and former school teacher Tom Niermann.

Voters in suburban Detroit will also weigh in on the direction of the Democratic Party. Three mainstream Democrats are viewed as leaders to vie for retiring Republican Rep. Dave Trott's seat in November. The field includes Fayrouz Saad, who would be the first Muslim woman in Congress.

And in suburban Seattle, three Democrats are vying in a jungle primary for the seat held by another

retiring Republican, Rep. Dave Reichert.

Senate contests in Missouri and Michigan will come into focus as two vulnerable Senate Democrats, Missouri's Claire McCaskill and Minnesota's Debbie Stabenow, are expected to easily claim their party's nominations.

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley is expected to take on McCaskill, while in Michigan, military veteran and business executive John James is vying for the chance to knock off Stabenow. He'd join Sen. Tim Scott as the only black Republican senators if he did.

Hours before polls opened, Trump again weighed in on Twitter, casting James as "a potential Republican star."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer John Hanna in Topeka, Kansas, contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect Hawley's title to state attorney general instead of secretary of state.

Man saved from quake-flattened mosque on Indonesia island

By ANDI JATMIKO and NINIEK KARMINI, Associated Press

LADING-LADING, Indonesia (AP) — Soldiers have pulled a man alive from the rubble of a large mosque flattened by an earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok, while thousands of homeless locals waited for aid Tuesday and stranded tourists camped at beaches and in the lobbies of damaged hotels.

The north of Lombok has been devastated by the magnitude 7.0 quake that struck Sunday night, killing at least 105 people, seriously injuring more than 230 and destroying thousands of buildings. Two days after the quake, rescuers were still struggling to reach all the affected areas and authorities expected the death toll to rise.

Disaster officials have not said how many people they believe are buried beneath the ruins of the Jabal Nur mosque in Lading-Lading but the village head, Budhiawan, said about 30 based on unclaimed belongings left outside the mosque.

Muhamad Juanda, who narrowly escaped, said 100 people were praying inside when the earth began to roll. Many got out but dozens were trapped, he said.

"When the earthquake happened, I stopped praying with dozens of other people. I stayed during the first shock, but the shock grew stronger and we rolled around trying to run out," he said.

Video shot on Monday by a soldier showed rescuers shouting "Thank God" as a man was pulled from a space under the mosque's flattened roof and staggered away from the ruins supported by soldiers.

"You're safe, mister," said one of the soldiers as emotion overcame the man, clad in Islamic robes, and villagers crowded around him.

Disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said he hopes "a lot" of people can be saved from the mosque. Two people were rescued from the debris Monday including a woman with a broken leg, said villager Supri Yono, and three were found dead. An AP reporter saw one body recovered Tuesday.

"We're forced to deal with broken bones in the traditional way at home because the hospital had to deal with hundreds of other injuries," said Budhiawan, the village head.

Rescuers were using heavy duty cutting equipment on Tuesday to prize apart the tangled mound of debris.

Aid organizations, already on Lombok after it was hit a week earlier by a 6.4 quake that killed 16 people, said they were stepping up their humanitarian efforts.

Oxfam said more than 20,000 people were in temporary shelters and thousands more were camping out in the open. It said clean drinking water was scarce because of a recent spell of extremely dry weather in Lombok. Food, medical supplies, tarpaulins and clothes are also urgently needed, it said.

The lush countryside of northern Lombok is pockmarked with collapsed homes and shops and damaged mosques. Thousands of people sat on roadsides outside their houses under blue makeshift tents and tarps,

too afraid to stay inside because of aftershocks or their homes now uninhabitable.

In the northern town of Tanjung, rescue workers in orange uniforms spent a second day trying to recover a body from the rubble of a destroyed home as a foul stench rose above it.

The brother-in-law of the dead man complained that authorities have not brought in heavy equipment that it is desperately needed.

"I want him to be pulled out of there immediately. But they're working too slow," said Masin, the brother-in-law, as ambulances passed by, sirens wailing.

Behind him, the rescuers, a dozen of them, were drilling into a flattened concrete wall. They had already used saws to cut a square out of the slab but could not find the body.

"The body is pinned underneath. We brought in sniffer dog and used saws and a drill but we can't figure out where he is," said Aprintinus Titus, a rescue worker from the National Search and Rescue Agency.

"We will not give up until we pull him out of this rubble. We know how hard his family is suffering," said Titus.

Hundreds of tourists and workers were still struggling to get off three outlying resort islands where power was cut off and hotels and hostels were damaged. Nugroho said more than 4,600 foreign and Indonesian tourists had been evacuated from the islands, with ships taking people to ports in Lombok and Bena, Bali.

British tourist Saffron Amis, who was stranded on Gili Trawangan island, said she spent a second night outdoors as aftershocks rattled the region before finally securing space on a boat.

"We slept in a bungalow until another quake hit us at midnight and then we moved to the beach," she said.

At Lombok's airport, dozens of tourists slept on the floor as they waited for flights off the island. Many hotels closed because of damage but some allowed travelers to camp in their lobbies.

"That was my first experience with the earthquake and it was really terrible," said Lize Reert, a Belgian woman among the several thousand who fled Gili Trawangan. "It was a nightmare in my life."

Like its better known neighbor Bali, Lombok is home to beaches and mountains. Hotels and other buildings in both locations are not allowed to exceed the height of coconut trees.

Indonesia is prone to earthquakes because of its location on the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. In December 2004, a massive magnitude 9.1 earthquake off Sumatra triggered a tsunami that killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries.

Karmini reported from Tanjung, Indonesia. Associated Press writer Todd Pitman contributed from Tanjung.

Largest wildfire in California history still growing

LAKEPORT, Calif. (AP) — Wildfires tearing through trees and brush, rampaging up hillsides and incinerating neighborhoods: The place-names change but the devastation is showing signs of becoming the new normal in California.

On Monday, twin fires being treated as one incident north of San Francisco became the largest wildfire in state history, destroying 443 square miles (1,148 square kilometers) — nearly the size of the city of Los Angeles.

The Mendocino Complex was still growing as it broke the record set last December. The Thomas Fire killed two people, burned 440 square miles, and destroyed more than 1,000 buildings in Southern California before being fully contained Jan. 12.

The Mendocino Complex, which is 30 percent contained, has been less destructive to property than some of the other wildfires in the state because it is mostly raging in remote areas. But officials say it threatens 11,300 buildings and some new evacuations were ordered over the weekend as the flames spread.

Hotter weather attributed to climate change is drying out vegetation, creating more intense fires that spread quickly from rural areas to city subdivisions, climate and fire experts say. But they also blame cities and towns that are expanding housing into previously undeveloped areas.

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More than 14,000 firefighters are battling more than a dozen major blazes throughout California, state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Scott McLean said.

"I can remember a couple of years ago when we saw 10 to 12,000 firefighters in the states of California, Oregon and Washington and never the 14,000 we see now," he said.

Crews made progress over the weekend against one of the two blazes in the Mendocino Complex with help from water-dropping aircraft, Cal Fire operations chief Charlie Blankenheim said in a video on Facebook.

But the other one is growing after spreading into the Mendocino National Forest.

Meanwhile, a new fire erupted south of Los Angeles in Orange County on Monday and quickly spread through the chaparral-covered ridges of the Cleveland National Forest. Campgrounds and homes in Holy Jim Canyon were ordered evacuated. The fire sent up an enormous pillar of smoke and ash.

Farther north, crews gained ground against a deadly blaze that has destroyed more than 1,000 homes in and around Redding. It was nearly halfway contained, Cal Fire said.

The wildfire about 225 miles (360 kilometers) north of San Francisco started more than two weeks ago by sparks from the steel wheel of a towed-trailer's flat tire. It killed two firefighters and four residents and displaced more than 38,000 people.

Officials began allowing some residents to return to their neighborhoods. But tens of thousands of others were still evacuated.

The fires in Northern California have created such a haze of smoke in the Central Valley that Sacramento County health officials advised residents to avoid outdoor activities for the entire week.

Another blaze that ignited last week in the Sierra Nevada has damaged a historic Northern California resort in the Stanislaus National Forest. The nearly century-old Dardanelle Resort has sustained massive structural damage, though the details were unclear, the Sacramento Bee newspaper reported.

Follow AP's wildfire coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/Wildfires>

Trump: Sanctions reinstated against Iran for "world peace"

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **ZEKE MILLER**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first set of U.S. sanctions against Iran that had been eased under the landmark nuclear accord went back into effect early Tuesday under an executive order signed by President Donald Trump, targeting financial transactions that involve U.S. dollars, Iran's automotive sector, the purchase of commercial planes and metals including gold.

More U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's oil sector and central bank are to be reimposed in early November.

In an early-morning tweet, Trump said the re-imposition of sanctions mean, "Anyone doing business with Iran will NOT be doing business with the United States."

"I am asking for WORLD PEACE, nothing less!"

The stiff economic sanctions ratchet up pressure on the Islamic Republic despite statements of deep dismay from European allies, three months after Trump pulled the U.S. out of the international accord limiting Iran's nuclear activities.

Trump declared the landmark 2015 agreement had been "horrible," leaving the Iranian government flush with cash to fuel conflict in the Middle East.

Iran accused the U.S. of reneging on the nuclear agreement, signed by the Obama administration, and of causing recent Iranian economic unrest. European allies said they "deeply regret" the U.S. action.

As the sanctions loomed Monday, Trump said in a statement, "We urge all nations to take such steps to make clear that the Iranian regime faces a choice: either change its threatening, destabilizing behavior and reintegrate with the global economy, or continue down a path of economic isolation."

Trump warned that those who don't wind down their economic ties to Iran "risk severe consequences."

The Europeans didn't like any of it.

Despite Trump's claims, the accord "is working and delivering on its goal" of limiting Iran's nuclear program, said a statement by European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the foreign ministers

of France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

The ministers said the Iran deal is "crucial for the security of Europe, the region and the entire world," and the European Union issued a "blocking statute" Monday to protect European businesses from the impact of the sanctions.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters under ground rules requiring anonymity, said the United States is "not particularly concerned" by EU efforts to protect European firms from the sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran still can rely on China and Russia to keep its oil and banking sectors afloat. Speaking in a television interview, he also demanded compensation for decades of American "intervention" in the Islamic Republic.

Months of uncertainty surrounding the sanctions have already further hurt Iran's economy. The country's rial currency has tanked, and the downturn has sparked protests across the nation.

The "Trump Administration wants the world to believe it's concerned about the Iranian people," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a statement posted to Twitter. But, he said, the reimposed sanctions would endanger "ordinary Iranians."

"US hypocrisy knows no bounds," he said.

U.S. officials insisted the American government stands with the people of Iran and supports many of their complaints against their own government.

National security adviser John Bolton said Iran's leadership is on "very shaky ground," but he insisted economic pressure from the Trump administration is not an attempt at "regime change."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said sanctions are an important pillar in U.S. policy toward Iran and will remain in place until the Iranian government radically changes course.

"They've got to behave like a normal country. That's the ask. It's pretty simple," said Pompeo, en route Sunday from a three-nation trip to Southeast Asia.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a firm foe of the Iranian government, said the sanctions symbolize "the determination to block Iran's regional aggression as well as its continuous plans to arm itself with nuclear weapons."

He called on the countries of Europe to join the U.S., saying, "The time has come to stop talking; the time has come to do."

The U.S. has long designated Iran as the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism, Pompeo noted Sunday, adding that the Islamic Republic cannot expect to be treated as an equal in the international community until it halts such activities.

He said that "there's no evidence today of a change in their behavior," and in the meantime "we're going to enforce the sanctions."

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi in Tehran and Ian Deitch in Jerusalem contributed.

Father arrested at NM compound to face court; son missing

By MARY HUDETZ and KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A plea for help and the search for a missing boy drew sheriff's deputies to a desolate New Mexico compound, walled off by stacks of old tires, wooden pallets and other debris. Just past the crude "no trespassing" sign, the officers found 16 people — including 11 children — living in squalid conditions.

Children ages 1 to 15 were rescued Friday from the compound that had been under investigation for months. However, the boy reported missing from Georgia was not among them and authorities haven't released many details about their search for him.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe said the boy's father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, was among five adults arrested at the compound in Amalia, just south of the New Mexico-Colorado line.

Authorities staged a raid after someone believed to have been in the compound sent out a message for help that said: "We are starving and need food and water."

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It wasn't clear who sent the message or how it was communicated. Georgia detectives forwarded the message to the Taos County Sheriff's Office.

Wahhaj was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday on a warrant from Georgia that seeks his extradition to face a charge of abducting his son, Abdul-ghani, from that state last December.

According to the extradition warrant, Wahhaj told the boy's mother that he wanted to perform an exorcism on the child, who suffered from seizures, because he believed the 3-year-old was possessed by the devil. The mother told police that Wahhaj took the boy for a trip to a park and never returned.

Abdul-ghani was believed to have been at the Amalia compound as recently as several weeks ago, Hogrefe said.

The warrant said the boy suffered from severe medical issues including hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, a defect caused by lack of oxygen and blood flow around the time of birth.

The boy's mother said the boy can't walk and requires constant attention.

Wahhaj was armed with several guns, including a loaded AR-15 assault rifle, when he was taken into custody without incident at the compound, the sheriff said.

The other man, Lucas Morton, was taken into custody on suspicion of harboring a fugitive.

The women, believed to be mothers of some of the children, have been identified as 35-year-old Jany Leveille, 38-year-old Hujrah Wahhaj, and 35-year-old Subhannah Wahhaj.

Jail booking photos show them wearing traditional Muslim veils or hijabs.

The adults each are facing 11 charges of child abuse. It wasn't clear whether they had retained attorneys.

The public defender's office in Taos County did not immediately return a telephone message from The Associated Press seeking comment Monday.

The sheriff said FBI agents surveilled the area a few weeks ago but did not find probable cause to search the property.

An FBI spokesman didn't immediately return a call by The Associated Press seeking comment.

Kate Brumback reported from Jonesboro, Georgia.

Testing finds flaws with car electronic car safety systems

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Cars and trucks with electronic driver assist systems may not see stopped vehicles and could even steer you into a crash if you're not paying attention, an insurance industry group warns.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in a paper titled "Reality Check," issued the warning Tuesday after testing five of the systems from Tesla, Mercedes, BMW and Volvo on a track and public roads. The upshot is while they could save your life, the systems can fail under many circumstances.

"We have found situations where the vehicles under semi-automated control may do things that can put you and your passengers at risk, and so you really need to be on top of it to prevent that from happening," said David Zuby, the institute's chief research officer.

Among the scariest found by the Virginia-based institute was with the system in two Tesla vehicles, the Model S and Model 3. The institute tested the system with the adaptive cruise control turned off, but automatic braking on. At 31 miles per hour, both Teslas braked and mitigated a crash but still hit a stationary balloon. They were the only two models that failed to stop in time during tests on a track.

Yet when the adaptive cruise control, which keeps a set distance from cars in front, is activated, the Teslas braked earlier and gentler and avoided the balloon, the agency said.

On the road, the institute's engineers found that all the vehicles but Tesla's Model 3 failed to respond to stopped vehicles ahead of them, the institute said.

The systems tested, in the Teslas, BMW's 5-Series, the Volvo S-90 and the Mercedes E-Class, are among the best in the business right now and have been rated "superior" in previous IIHS tests. Zuby said the systems do increase safety but the tests show they are not 100 percent reliable.

Many of the scenarios discovered by IIHS are covered in the vehicles' owner's manuals, which tell driv-

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ers they have to pay attention. But Zuby said not many people read their owner's manuals in detail. Even though the systems have names like Tesla's "Autopilot" or Volvo's "Pilot Assist," they are not self-driving vehicles, Zuby said. "They will help you with some steering or speed control but you really better be paying attention because they don't always get it right," he said.

Many of the cars' lane-centering systems failed, especially on curves or hills. The BMW, Model S and Volvo "steered toward or across the lane line regularly," requiring driver intervention, the IIHS said.

The IIHS-affiliated Highway Loss Data Institute analyzed Tesla insurance losses to find that automatic braking and other crash avoidance features on the Model S were helpful in reducing property damage and bodily injury claims. But adding "Autopilot," which includes automatic steering and lane-changing, only helped to lower collision claims.

The institute, which in the past has developed tests that made the auto industry strengthen vehicle structures, also said the California crash of a Tesla Model X SUV in March that killed a man shows the limits of the technology and the tendency of some drivers to misuse it.

The group also said a pedestrian death in Arizona involving an Uber autonomous vehicle shows the dangers of testing self-driving vehicles on public roads.

IIHS is developing ratings for driver assist systems and eventually will make recommendations on regulations for fully autonomous vehicles, Zuby said.

Messages were left Monday seeking comment from the automakers.

Could hard-right Supreme Court haunt GOP? History says maybe

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's of little worry for Republicans or solace for Democrats bracing for battle over Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. Yet history suggests that if President Donald Trump cements an assertively conservative court for a generation, the GOP may ultimately pay a political price.

When and how steep? That depends on how momentous the issues and how jolting the decisions, according to legal scholars who've studied the high court's impact on electoral politics.

The past century is replete with cautionary tales for political parties that rejoice when the Supreme Court's ideology turns their way. That track record, coupled with today's intensifying partisanship, suggests that when it comes to high court nomination fights, both sides should be careful what they wish for.

"In a democracy, what matters is winning votes," said Michael Klarman, a Harvard Law School professor who has studied constitutional history. "And you shouldn't trust the courts to win your battles for you, because there's going to be a backlash if they go too far, too fast."

Such words of caution won't have a discernible impact on senators, who have little incentive to abandon their own or their parties' ideological preferences.

"I'll vote to confirm Kavanaugh and I'll take my chances," said No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas.

But since Kavanaugh's confirmation could tip the court decisively to the right for years, the past consequences of some such shifts are instructive.

In the 1930s, a conservative Supreme Court knocked down many of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs aimed at hoisting the country out of the Depression. Statutes letting industries and unions set wages and prices, raising farm income and regulating the coal industry were declared unconstitutional, as was a New York minimum wage law.

That helped fuel a 1936 FDR landslide that also gave Democrats 76 Senate and 334 House seats, Election Day majorities neither party has ever matched. The triumph paved the way for congressional control that Democrats didn't relinquish until after World War II.

The Warren Court's liberal decisions of the 1960s helped power Richard Nixon's law-and-order rise to the White House in 1968. Rulings buttressing criminals' rights, like the *Miranda vs. Arizona* decision requiring authorities to inform arrested people of their rights, provided potent ammunition for Nixon at a time of

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racial unrest and growing crime rates.

"Some of our courts in their decisions have gone too far in weakening the peace forces as against the criminal forces in this country and we must act to restore that balance," Nixon said in his acceptance speech 50 years ago this week at the Republican national convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

The 1973 Roe v. Wade case legalizing abortion has been backed by strong majorities of Americans but spurred the rise of the anti-abortion movement and helped galvanize political involvement by Christian conservatives. Both remain vital factors in American politics and a driving force for the GOP.

The disconnect between the court's ideological leanings and voters' preferences occurs because justices are appointed for life. With turnover on the bench infrequent, the court's views often lag behind the election results of the presidents and senators who pick them.

"Over the long course of time, the court follows broader political trends," said Thomas Keck, a Syracuse University political scientist who studies the Supreme Court and political movements. "But it doesn't tend to turn as quickly as the elected branches" of government.

Kavanaugh's nomination could be pivotal. He would replace the retiring Anthony Kennedy, who's been the nine-member court's swing vote on issues including same-sex marriage, corporate campaign contributions and gun rights.

Yet Kavanaugh's confirmation wouldn't guarantee that the court would veer firmly rightward because forecasting justices' long-term viewpoints is historically tricky.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, a GOP California governor appointed by President Dwight Eisenhower, steered one of the most liberal courts in history. Anthony Kennedy was appointed by conservative icon President Ronald Reagan but protected abortion rights. Chief Justice John Roberts was selected by President George W. Bush but cast the decisive tally preserving Obama's health care law.

But there will inevitably be numerous opportunities for the court to address politically searing issues.

In its coming term alone, the justices might face cases about special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian intrusion in the 2016 presidential race, religious liberty and sexual orientation. Future cases could emerge over curtailing Obama's health care statute, revoking protections against deporting young immigrants and curbing abortion rights — issues that galvanize conservative and liberal voters alike.

Joseph Ura, a political scientist at Texas A&M University, says the impact of a sharp, rightward court shift could be felt quickly enough to affect a Trump re-election bid in 2020, if not sooner.

In a 2014 study, Ura used computer modeling to compare five decades of important court decisions to the public mood. He concluded that there is a quick backlash against shifts in the court's ideology that lasts about two years before eroding, followed by a slight, longer-term swing toward the justices' viewpoints.

Ura's guidance to Democrats, should a Kavanaugh confirmation produce high-profile court decisions invalidating liberal programs?

"My advice to them is to campaign on this," he said.

NASCAR chairman France takes leave after DWI, drug arrest

SAG HARBOR, N.Y. (AP) — NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France announced on Monday he was taking an indefinite leave of absence following his arrest in the Hamptons on charges of driving while intoxicated and criminal possession of oxycodone.

France was seen blowing through a stop sign in Sag Harbor on Sunday and later had a blood-alcohol content that was more than twice the legal limit for driving, smelled of booze and slurred his words, police said.

He said in a statement on Monday that effective immediately he would be taking a leave of absence from his position "to focus on my personal affairs."

"I apologize to our fans, our industry and my family for the impact of my actions last night," he said.

France has been NASCAR's chairman and CEO since 2003. His uncle Jim France, a vice chairman and executive vice president, will take over those roles on an interim basis.

France, 56, spent the night in jail and was arraigned at Sag Harbor Village Justice Court. He was released

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on his own recognizance and is due back in court Sept. 14.

His lawyer referred reporters to a NASCAR statement on the matter. The organization said it takes his arrest "as a serious matter and will issue a statement after we have all of the facts."

France was pulled over and arrested at about 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Police said they saw his 2017 Lexus roll through a stop sign near the Sag Harbor waterfront.

His eyes were red and glassy, and he struggled to keep his balance during field sobriety tests, police said. Tests showed his blood-alcohol content was 0.18, police said. The legal limit for driving in New York is 0.08.

Officers found five oxycodone pills during a subsequent search, police said.

France is a third-generation leader of NASCAR. His late grandfather Bill France Sr. founded the company in 1948.

He's introduced a playoff system, overhauled the design of its cars and pushed for diversity within the circuit's predominantly white, male ranks.

In recent years, he's been dealing with plunging attendance and TV ratings and departing sponsors, attributing the downturn to the challenge of connecting with a new, younger generation of fans.

France last month characterized as "rumors" reports that his family was looking into selling its racing properties.

"The France family is locked and loaded in its dedication to NASCAR," France told SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. "We're focused on ruling and managing NASCAR. There's nothing to report on that. Rumors are always interesting, but they're seldom right."

France was charged with reckless driving in Seminole County, Florida, in 2005 and was ordered to pay a \$760 fine and complete an aggressive-driver program, court records show.

The following year, according to a police report, he crashed his Lexus into a tree after entering a restaurant parking lot in Daytona Beach, Florida.

France later told an officer called to his home that he was drinking a soda and "bumped into something."

But a witness called 911 and gave police a statement that claimed she saw France driving at a "very reckless speed" and claimed France's car hit the tree after hitting a parked car. She said she also watched as France "fell over his own feet" as he got out of his car.

Her statement was not attached to the police report, and the Daytona Beach police chief later investigated whether France was given special treatment by authorities.

TMZ first reported Sunday's arrest.

More AP auto racing: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-AutoRacing> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Gates admits crimes with _ and embezzlement from _ Manafort

By CHAD DAY and MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The government's star witness in the financial fraud trial of Paul Manafort testified Monday that he embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from the former Trump campaign chairman — and told jurors that he and Manafort committed crimes together.

Rick Gates, described by witnesses as Manafort's "right-hand man," calmly related his criminal conduct as prosecutors looked to provide jurors with damning testimony from a co-conspirator they say carried out an elaborate offshore tax-evasion and fraud scheme on behalf of his former boss.

Gates, who is expected to continue testifying for several hours Tuesday, has been regarded as a crucial witness for the government ever since he pleaded guilty this year to two felony charges and agreed to cooperate in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

The courtroom testimony brought Gates face-to-face with Manafort, his longtime boss and fellow Trump campaign aide, for the first time since his plea deal. His testimony, given in short, clipped answers as Manafort rarely broke his gaze from the witness stand, follows that of vendors who detailed Manafort's luxurious spending and financial professionals who told jurors how the defendant hid millions of dollars

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in offshore accounts.

Gates told jurors that he siphoned off the money without Manafort's knowledge by filing false expense reports. He also admitted to concealing millions of dollars in foreign bank accounts on Manafort's behalf and to falsifying documents to help his former boss obtain millions of dollars more in bank loans.

"We didn't report the income or the foreign bank accounts," Gates told jurors, noting that he knew he and Manafort were committing crimes each time.

Under questioning from prosecutors, Gates read off the names of more than a dozen shell companies he and Manafort set up in Cyprus, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United Kingdom to stash the proceeds of Ukrainian political consulting work.

Asked whether the money in the accounts was Manafort's income, Gates said, "it was."

Gates said he repeatedly lied to conceal the bank accounts and, at Manafort's direction, he would classify money that came in as either a loan or income to reduce Manafort's tax burden.

Gates, who also served in a senior role in Donald Trump's presidential campaign, is expected to face aggressive cross-examination once prosecutors are finished questioning him. Manafort's defense signaled early in the trial that they intend to blame Gates for any illegal conduct and to cast him as a liar and embezzler who can't be trusted.

Gates pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge and to lying to investigators as part of his plea agreement. He is awaiting sentencing, and he told jurors Monday that in exchange for his truthful testimony prosecutors agreed not to oppose his attorney's request for probation at a later date. That recommendation is nonbinding as a federal judge will ultimately decide his sentence. He faces 57 to 71 months in prison under federal sentencing guidelines.

The criminal case has nothing to do with either man's work for the Trump campaign and there's been no discussion during the trial about whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia — the central question Mueller's team has tried to answer. But Trump has shown interest in the proceedings, tweeting support for Manafort and suggesting he had been treated worse than gangster Al Capone.

U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III, who repeatedly interrupted prosecutors last week as they tried to present evidence about Manafort's lavish life such as \$900,000 in expensive suits and a \$15,000 ostrich jacket, clashed again with prosecutor Greg Andres on Monday when Andres delved into the status and identities of the Eastern Europeans who made payments to Manafort.

Ellis said all that's relevant is that Manafort was paid and whether he hid the income from the IRS.

"It doesn't matter whether these are good people, bad people, oligarchs, Mafia. ... You don't need to throw mud at these people," Ellis said.

Andres said he was entitled to show the jury why Manafort was getting tens of millions of dollars in payments.

"When we try to describe the work, Your Honor stops us and tell us to move on," he said.

Prosecutors say Manafort used those companies to stash millions of dollars from his Ukrainian consulting work, proceeds he omitted year-after-year from his income tax returns. Later, they say, when that income dwindled, Manafort launched a different scheme, shoring up his struggling finances by using doctored documents to obtain millions more in bank loans.

All told, prosecutors allege that Manafort failed to report a "significant percentage" of the more than \$60 million they say he received from Ukrainians. They aimed to show jurors how that money flowed from more than a dozen shell companies used to stash the income in Cyprus.

Last week, a tax preparer named Cindy Laporta admitted that she helped disguise \$900,000 in foreign income as a loan in order to reduce Manafort's tax burden. Laporta, who testified under an immunity deal with the government, acknowledged that she agreed under pressure from Gates to alter a tax document for one of Manafort's businesses.

Under cross-examination Monday, defense attorney Kevin Downing pressed Laporta on the complexities of Manafort's finances as he worked to paint a picture of a political consultant who left the details to professionals and, in particular, to Gates.

Downing also accused Gates of embezzling "millions," a higher amount than Gates later admitted to in

his testimony.

Laporta said she had grown to distrust the information Gates was providing her, though she didn't know about the embezzlement.

But she said she believed Manafort was directing Gates' efforts to disguise loans and conceal income, noting that Manafort was copied on her email traffic with Gates.

"In most instances, it was clear that Mr. Manafort knew what was going on," she said.

Associated Press writers Eric Tucker and Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

Kids found in rags in New Mexico amid tale of guns, exorcism

By MARY HUDETZ and KATE BRUMBACK, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A raid on a New Mexico desert compound turned up 11 children wearing rags and living in filth, and also broke open a bizarre tale of guns, exorcism, and a search for a missing young boy who suffers from seizures and is nowhere to be found.

The boy's father was among five people arrested after the raid near the border with Colorado. Documents made public in a court filing Monday said the father told the boy's mother before fleeing Georgia that he wanted to perform an exorcism on the child because he believed he was possessed by the devil.

Taos County Sheriff Jerry Hogrefe said deputies arrested the father, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj, and four other adults on child abuse charges after finding the 11 children Friday inside a makeshift compound in the tiny community of Amalia. It was littered with "odorous trash" and lacking clean water, authorities said.

Inside, Wahhaj, 39, was found heavily armed with multiple firearms, including a loaded AR-15, before he was taken into custody, the sheriff said.

His son, Abdul-ghani, who was 3 when he disappeared last December, was not among the children found. But Hogrefe said authorities have reason to believe the boy was at the compound several weeks ago.

Hogrefe's deputies are searching for the child, along with the FBI and Georgia authorities in Clayton County, where officials say the boy was living before his father took him around Dec. 1, 2017.

The boy's mother told authorities the boy suffers from seizures, cannot walk because of severe medical issues, and requires constant attention.

She told police in December that Wahhaj had taken the boy for a trip to a park and never returned.

Clayton County police said in a missing persons bulletin that Wahhaj and his son were last seen Dec. 13 in Alabama, traveling with five other children and two adults.

Georgia authorities said Wahhaj was traveling through Chilton County on Dec. 13 with seven children and another adult when their car overturned. Wahhaj told police the group was traveling from Georgia to New Mexico to go camping.

The trooper who wrote the report said he found no camping equipment in or near the vehicle but that Wahhaj was in possession of three handguns, two rifles, a bag of ammunition, and a bulletproof vest. Wahhaj told the trooper that he owned the guns legally and had a Georgia permit to carry concealed weapons.

"Mr. Wahhaj seemed to be very concerned about his weapons and stated several times that they were his property and that he owned them legally," the report said.

It was not immediately known Monday whether Wahhaj and the others charged in the child abuse case in New Mexico — another man and three women believed to be the mother of the 11 children — had retained attorneys. The public defender's office in Taos County did not immediately return telephone message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The Taos County sheriff identified the women facing charges as 35-year-old Jany Leveille, 38-year-old Hujrah Wahhaj, and 35-year-old Subhannah Wahhaj. They were arrested in the town of Taos and booked into jail.

The search at the compound came amid a two-month investigation in collaboration with Clayton County authorities and the FBI, according to Hogrefe.

He said FBI agents surveilled the area a few weeks ago but did not find probable cause to search the

property.

That changed when Georgia detectives forwarded a message to Hogrefe's office that initially had been sent to a third party, saying: "We are starving and need food and water."

What authorities found was what Hogrefe called "the saddest living conditions and poverty" he has seen in 30 years on the job.

Other than a few potatoes and a box of rice, there was little food in the compound, which Hogrefe said consisted of a small travel trailer buried in the ground and covered by plastic with no water, plumbing and electricity.

Hogrefe said the adults and children — ages 1 to 15 — had no shoes, wore dirty rags for clothing and "looked like Third World country refugees."

The grandfather of the missing boy, Imam Siraj Wahhaj of Brooklyn, New York, issued a plea on Facebook for helping finding his grandson.

In a federal court filing in 2006, Siraj Ibn Wahhaj claimed he was harassed on his way to and from Morocco by customs agents at JFK Airport in New York because he is "the son of the famous Muslim Imam Siraj Wahhaj."

Brumback reported from Jonesboro, Georgia.

This story includes the correct spelling of the name of Subhannah Wahhaj, which was misspelled in a previous version.

5 killed after plane nosedived into California parking lot

By AMY TAXIN and ARIEL TU, Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — On a breezy morning, Floria Hakimi smiled as her photo was snapped on the steps leading up to a small plane that was supposed to usher her to a workshop for real estate agents in Southern California.

"Flying out to LA," she posted on her Instagram account with the photo of her donning sunglasses and a broad grin.

Later that day, the twin-engine Cessna 414 carrying the 62-year-old real estate agent and four others plummeted out of the sky and crashed into the parking lot of an Orange County strip mall, killing everyone on board.

Hakimi and two victims were co-workers at Pacific Union International, a San Francisco Bay Area real estate firm. One of them, 42-year-old Lara Shepherd, was married to the plane's 53-year-old pilot, Scott Shepherd.

Another was 29-year-old Nasim Ghanadan, who saw Hakimi as a mentor in the real estate industry, Ghanadan's brother said. Hakimi's 32-year-old son, Navid Hakimi, was also a passenger on the trip.

The group left Sunday for the Tom Ferry Success Summit in Anaheim, California, a business conference popular with real estate agents, said Terri Tiffany, a spokeswoman for Pacific Union.

Ghanadan loved to cook Persian and American food and loved dancing. She grew up in the Bay Area and was quick to make friends with just about everyone she met, said Aryan Ghanadan, her 19-year-old brother.

"She was just larger than life, always, always laughing," he said. "Just always the life of the party."

The plane took off from Buchanan Field Airport in Concord, California, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The pilot declared an emergency but didn't state the nature of his problem before crashing about a mile (1.6 kilometers) from John Wayne Airport, striking four parked cars, National Transportation Safety Board investigator Albert Nixon said Monday.

Nixon didn't know how much time elapsed between the call and the crash.

The plane was heading to the airport southeast of Los Angeles and had been cleared to land when it came down in the parking lot of a Staples store and a CVS pharmacy, NTSB officials said.

There was no fire and nobody on the ground was hurt, Orange County fire officials said.

Witnesses in watched in horror as the plane flew low over the shopping area near the upscale South Coast Plaza mall and nosedived into the parking lot. Customers ran out of a nearby restaurant and saw the wreckage of the white plane with green and blue trim.

Navid Hakimi, of Los Angeles, was a musician and a DJ. He also has a son, said longtime friend Pantea Tadi. Last month, Hakimi posted a selfie of him with his mother on his Instagram page, saying she had come down for a surprise visit on his birthday.

"Spending the day with both her and my beautiful son is literally all I could have asked for," he wrote. "My heart is bursting!"

The Shepherds, of Diablo, California, have two children, ages 5 and 7, according to Pacific Union. He was a great cook, and she knew about art, said neighbor Kate Montgomery.

"Our entire Pacific Union family is mourning the loss of our colleagues, family and friends," the company's chief executive Mark A. McLaughlin said in a statement. "Life is precious and we are focused on comforting the loved ones affected by this devastating event."

The FAA and the NTSB are investigating the cause of the crash.

The plane is registered to a San Francisco-based real estate consulting company, Category III, according to an FAA database. A phone call to the company was not immediately returned.

The 1973 Cessna was certified with the FAA through October 2019, online records show.

Tu reported from Los Angeles. Associated Press writer Christopher Weber contributed from Los Angeles.

11 dead, nearly 70 wounded in weekend violence in Chicago

By MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — At least 11 people were shot to death and about 70 wounded in a weekend burst of violence in Chicago that instantly became a political issue when President Donald Trump's lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, blamed the carnage on longtime Democratic rule in the city.

Police on Monday attributed the dozens of shootings to gangs, the illegal flow of guns and sweltering August heat that drew more people outside.

The victims ranged in age from 11 to 63, according to police. One teenage girl died after being shot in the face. A teenage boy was fatally shot riding a bike Sunday afternoon. Other shootings took place at a block party and a funeral.

Even for Chicagoans all too accustomed to violence in parts of the city, the weekend stood out. By way of comparison, at least seven people were killed and 32 wounded during the long Memorial Day weekend, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"Our souls are burdened," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. "It is unacceptable to happen in any neighborhood of Chicago. We are a better city."

Echoing comments that Trump himself has made repeatedly about Chicago, Giuliani blamed Emanuel — President Barack Obama's White House chief of staff — and decades of "one party Democratic rule" in a series of tweets on Sunday and Monday.

The former New York mayor also tweeted his support for Chicago mayoral candidate and former Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, referring to him as "Jerry" and calling him a "policing genius."

McCarthy plans to run next February against Emanuel, who fired McCarthy in 2015 after the release of dashcam video showing a white police officer kill a black teenager by shooting him 16 times.

Misspelling Emanuel's last name, Giuliani tweeted: "He can do a lot better than Mayor Emmanuel who is fiddling while Chicago burns." Giuliani also falsely claimed that Chicago had "63 murders this weekend."

The mayor had no immediate comment on Giuliani's attacks.

Most of the shootings happened in poor neighborhoods on the West and South Sides where gangs are entrenched, said Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson, standing next to the mayor.

Johnson noted that homicides in the city are down by around 20 percent from last year. But he said

gang members and others arrested on gun charges aren't dealt with harshly enough.

"It is the same people who are pulling the triggers," he said. "This is a small subset of individuals who think they can play by their own rules because they continue to get a slap on the wrist when we arrest them."

Johnson said at the morning news conference there had been no arrests in any of the weekend shootings.

Days before the attacks, some 200 protesters marched through a well-to-do North Side neighborhood and briefly closed Lake Shore Drive, calling for more resources to stem violence in poor areas.

Tio Hardiman, one of the organizers of last week's rally, said members of the black community need to take the initiative by mediating truces between gangs.

The violence peaked early Sunday, including one shooting on the South Side that wounded eight people.

Security was increased over the weekend at the outdoor Lollapalooza music festival in downtown Chicago, which drew tens of thousands of young people. But Johnson said the officers were on overtime and weren't moved from their regular beats in high-crime areas.

City officials say new crime-fighting measures over recent years have helped bring homicide numbers down, including greater reliance on technology that can instantly indicate where gunfire came from. Improved intelligence-gathering has also enabled police to quickly dispatch officers to hotspots where gang violence has just occurred to help thwart revenge attacks.

Chicago ended 2017 with 650 homicides, down from 771 the year before. Though the drop was significant, last year's total exceeded the combined number of killings in New York and Los Angeles, the two U.S. cities bigger than Chicago.

In a statement, McCarthy called himself a "proud Democrat" and distanced himself from Giuliani's views and "the misguided, divisive tone and policies of Donald Trump."

McCarthy said the blame for the bloodshed "lies squarely with Rahm Emanuel's weak leadership and failed policies," not with Chicago Democrats as a whole.

Venezuela rallies Maduro supporters after thwarted attack

By **SCOTT SMITH** and **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Pro-government factions mobilized thousands of Venezuelans dressed in red — the color of the ruling socialist party — onto the streets of the capital on Monday in a bid to show the country remains united around President Nicolas Maduro after what the government described as a thwarted assassination attempt.

"This river of red," Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza declared as the crowd waved flags and carried posters with Maduro's image. "It could have been another red running through these streets."

Authorities say they have now captured all those behind the attack using two drones armed with explosives. The names of those detained have not been released, but chief prosecutor Tarek William Saab said the six people arrested could face charges including treason, attempted homicide and terrorism.

"They need to pay the penalty Venezuela's law calls for," Diosdado Cabello, a high-ranking socialist party leader, told the crowd of thousands. "There won't be any more forgiveness."

Public employees are required to attend such pro-government rallies to ensure a strong show of support. Yet, even as Venezuelan leaders sought to project a nation united behind Maduro, analysts warned the incident makes the already unpopular leader even more vulnerable as he struggles to reverse a crippling humanitarian and economic crisis considered worse than the Great Depression.

Diego Moya-Ocampos, a Venezuelan analyst with the London-based consulting firm IHS Markit, warned Saturday's failed attack could be a sign that low-level insurgent groups that have in the past expressed their frustration by throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the National Guard during protests are now escalating to a more violent approach.

"This is a manifestation of institutions not being able to channel the political, economic and social crisis that Venezuela is going through," he said.

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Maduro was addressing hundreds of uniformed soldiers Saturday in a speech celebrating the 81st anniversary of the National Guard when an explosion pierced the air. Authorities say two drones, each packed with a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of C-4 plastic explosive, were aimed at the stage where Maduro, his wife and a slate of the nation's highest-ranking government leaders were gathered.

The military managed to knock one of the drones off course electronically and the other craft crashed into an apartment building two blocks away.

Images captured on live television showed Maduro and his wife looking up at the sky as the explosion struck and then hundreds of soldiers scrambling from the scene, an image of panic in stark contrast to the one of power and control the government tries to project.

Saab said Monday that two suspects were detained quickly on Saturday after witnesses saw them operating one of the drones from a vehicle. He added that there was evidence that the attack was linked to an ongoing investigating related to a "terrorist attack" last year.

The comment appeared to be a reference to rogue police officer Oscar Perez, who flew a stolen helicopter over the capital in June 2017 and launched grenades at several government buildings. He and several comrades were killed in a gun battle with police after months on the lam.

In his rallying speech, Cabello told Venezuelans there is no doubt that the "Colombian oligarchy" and "North American imperialism" were behind Saturday's attack.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos vehemently denied the accusation, saying that at the time of the attack he was at the baptism of his newborn granddaughter. The United States has also denied any involvement.

"They say they didn't participate in this attack," Cabello told supporters. "And in which ones did you participate, gentlemen of the imperialism?"

A little-known group calling itself Soldiers in T-shirts claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the explosive-laden drones were intended to target the president. "It was not successful today, but it is just a matter of time," the group said in a tweet.

The authenticity of the message could not be independently verified, and the organization did not respond to a message from The Associated Press seeking further comment.

Dimitris Pantoulas, a Caracas-based political analyst, said that the political clout Maduro cemented in recent months suffered a blow with televised images of soldiers fleeing in fear. Maduro won a May election that was decried by the international community for lacking basic democratic guarantees. The opposition's most popular leaders were barred from running.

Pantoulas noted that Maduro appeared to be making some advances in charting economic reforms and shifting from politics to policy since the election.

"Now, Maduro has to overcome doubts about his power," he said. "It means instability and chaos."

The attack comes as Venezuela's economy continues to hemorrhage and thousands flee to neighboring Colombia seeking food and medical care. Meanwhile, Maduro has grown increasingly isolated, with the United States and other foreign powers slapping economic sanctions on a growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials and decrying his government as an autocratic regime.

The International Monetary Fund projects inflation could top 1 million percent by year's end.

In his remarks since the attack, Maduro has vowed to press forward with the socialist revolution begun by his predecessor, the late President Hugo Chavez.

Cabello echoed that message at Monday's rally.

"The right will never win here again!" he cried to resounding applause.

Ramon Duarte, a security worker at the march, said he believes Saturday's attack will have the opposite effect of what the conspirators have intended: Serving to solidify support for the revolution.

"This revolution may have its errors," he said. "But it needs to be supported."

Armario reported from Miami. Associated Press writer Fabiola Sanchez in Caracas contributed to this report.

Russian immigrant running for US House seat in Alaska

By BECKY BOHRER and MARK THIESSEN, Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — At age 37, Dimitri Shein has already lived the American dream.

Born in the Soviet Union, Shein recalls standing in bread lines with his grandfather. After moving to Alaska in the early 1990s, he and his mother, who had married a man in Anchorage, wound up living in a shelter and on public assistance when the marriage soured.

Now a naturalized American citizen who runs a successful mail-order planter business, Shein has set his sights on Congress. He is competing in this month's Democratic primary against two independents — Alyse Galvin and Christopher Cumings — and out-of-state Democrat Carol Hafner in hopes of advancing to take on Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young, who has held the office for eight years longer than Shein has been alive.

If elected, Shein would be the first Russian-born member of the House since 1967.

Shein wasn't politically active until after the election of President Donald Trump, when he said he began to fear for the safety of his Alaska Native children when they walked down the street. His wife, a doctor, is Alaska Native. They have two biological and four adopted kids.

"I woke up in a different country. I said, 'Oh my God, where are we living?' This is not the country I remember arriving in that welcomed me," Shein said.

Shein's major campaign issue is Medicare for all, a concept popularized by Vermont U.S. senator and former presidential candidate Bernie Sanders. That may seem bold, Shein said, but it's not outside the mainstream — the state Democratic party platform supports development and implementation of a single-payer health care system.

Galvin, who has mounted a vigorous campaign and outraised her opponents, also supports a health care plan that covers everyone but says until that happens improvements should be made to the existing system.

To Shein, that's not good enough. The problem Democrats have had in the past in running against Young is "they don't shake it up, they don't push new ideas and they lose," he said. His positions on health care and other issues, like greater investment in renewable energy and repealing Trump-backed tax cuts passed by Congress, "make sense to most Democrats," he said. "We just have to run on them."

He called Young, known for sometimes off-color and off the cuff comments, "the original Donald."

Patricia Faye-Brazel, a state legislative candidate and Shein supporter, called Shein charismatic. "When he walks into a room, people light up, and when he speaks, they cheer," she said, adding that he has "the pulse of the people."

Shein has traveled the state, accepting invites to speak to groups and participating in forums with Galvin. Cumings and Hafner, who has never visited Alaska, have done little campaigning.

Shein has loaned his campaign more than \$100,000. Lack of name recognition is an issue both he and Galvin are trying to overcome.

A former accountant, Shein invented a planter box inspired in style by a shish kabob grill his grandfather sent him from Russia. He drives one of 94 registered Teslas in Alaska, the doors of which flip up, like the DeLorean in the movie "Back to the Future." Shein doesn't get the reference, though, referring to them instead as falcon-wing doors.

On a recent jaunt to his favorite coffee spot, in an Anchorage strip mall, Shein ran into his old high school debate coach, David Block. As a student, Block said, Shein was an outspoken, opinionated "pain in the neck." But he worked hard to master speech and debate, though English is not his native language. That helped lay "the foundation of where he is now," Block said.

Shein has always been scrappy. His mother, Lena Saville, who worked at Walmart and a hotel while getting her master's degree and went on to become an environmental engineer, said Shein has been working since he was 12, delivering papers for the Anchorage Daily News.

He was a natural salesman, often pushing the savings that people would reap from the coupons in the Sunday edition as an incentive to buy. He even once sold a subscription to a blind woman, she said. "He mentioned she could use it for the bird cage."

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As an adult, Shein's family doubled in size following a serendipitous outing by his wife, Melissa. While on a run in 2014, she came upon a young girl who was alone and skittish and told Melissa she had run away from home because she felt like she was in danger.

The girl had three sisters, who were removed from their home and hospitalized; Melissa visited them there daily but later learned they had not been placed together in foster care.

She and Shein discussed having the girls live with them. Their son made the decision easy: "They need a home? Why don't they just live with us?" he said. The girls were moved in and adopted by the Sheins in 2016.

The couple stepped in because it was the right thing to do, even if it was hard, Shein said, recalling spending nights in front of the girls' doors for months so they could get to sleep. Now, the girl on the running trail runs track and gets As, he said.

He draws parallels between that experience and the heavy-lifts he said are required by Congress to improve the country. "It's about doing the hard work," Shein said.

Thiessen reported from Anchorage, Alaska. Researcher Jennifer Farrar contributed from New York.

Lemonade stand robber on the run; DNA could help track him

MONROE, N.C. (AP) — A teenager who held up a North Carolina lemonade stand for \$17 was still at large Monday, and authorities said they hoped to track him through surveillance footage and possible DNA and fingerprint tests.

Neighbors were asked to check their home security cameras for possible clues, said Union County Sheriff's Office spokesman Tony Underwood. He said a camouflage hat and BB pistol found along with a metal cash box was found in some nearby woods and could be checked for fingerprints and DNA. The 9-year-old lemonade vendor said a teenager wearing a similar hat and a black shirt pointed a black handgun at him and took his cash box Saturday afternoon in Monroe, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Charlotte.

"We think we are making positive traction" in the investigation, Underwood said.

Neighbor Kelly Smith said she noticed the boy's stand with its yellow sign offering "organic lemonade" at a traffic roundabout at the entrance to her planned community as she left to pick up her daughter at taekwondo class. She said she intended on patronizing the boy's business when she returned, only to find him gone and a half-dozen patrol cars on her street.

"It's heart-wrenching. That little boy will never be the same," Smith said.

Smith said she suspects the robber may be from her neighborhood because there are no stores or much of anything else nearby.

Local resident James Castellano said he bought a drink from the boy Saturday morning and snagged one of the young entrepreneur's business cards. The boy's card describes him as an "organic lemonade stand operator, designer, dog walker, reptile caregiver, lawn mower, professional ring bearer."

The 9-year-old set up his lemonade stand again at the neighborhood pool on Sunday and did a brisk business, Smith said.

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's claims on economic gains overstated

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is grossly overstating the extent of U.S. economic and job gains.

In a tweet Monday, he declares that the economy has "never been better" and jobs are at the "best point in history."

In fact, the economy and jobs are nowhere close to historic bests based on several measures. Economists have also warned that U.S. growth is largely fueled by government borrowing, as the federal deficit rises because of his tax cuts, and is thus unlikely to be sustainable after a few quarters.

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A look at the claims:

TRUMP: "Great financial numbers being announced on an almost daily basis. Economy has never been better, jobs at best point in history."

THE FACTS: He's exaggerating. The economy is healthy now, but it has been in better shape at many times in the past.

Growth reached 4 percent at an annual rate in the second quarter, which Trump highlighted late last month with remarks at the White House. But it's only the best in the past four years. So far, the economy is expanding at a modest rate compared with previous economic expansions. In the late 1990s, growth topped 4 percent for four straight years, from 1997 through 2000. And in the 1980s expansion, growth even reached 7.2 percent in 1984.

It's not clear what Trump specifically means when he declares that jobs are at the "best point in history," but based on several indicators, he's off the mark.

The unemployment rate of 3.9 percent is not at the best point ever — it is actually near the lowest in 18 years. The all-time low came in 1953, when unemployment fell to 2.5 percent during the Korean War. And while economists have been surprised to see employers add 215,000 jobs a month this year, a healthy increase, employers in fact added jobs at a faster pace in 2014 and 2015. A greater percentage of Americans held jobs in 2000 than now.

Trump didn't mention probably the most important measure of economic health for Americans — wages. While paychecks are slowly grinding higher, inflation is now canceling out the gains. Lifted by higher gasoline prices, consumer prices increased 2.9 percent in June from a year earlier, the most in six years.

Adjusting for inflation, hourly pay for non-managers — about 80 percent of the workforce — fell 0.2 percent over the same period. Yet in 1998, for example, inflation-adjusted hourly pay growth topped 2.5 percent.

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Stocks rise on company earnings, oil gains on Iran sanctions

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stock markets rose Tuesday as investors looked past U.S.-China trade tensions and the price of oil increased after the U.S. imposed new sanctions on Iran.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX rose 0.8 percent to 12,701 and France's CAC 40 advanced 0.7 percent to 5,516. London's FTSE 100 gained 0.7 percent to 7,716. On Wall Street, the future for the Dow Jones industrial average was 0.3 percent higher and that for the Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 0.2 percent.

ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite Index rose 2.7 percent to 2,779.37 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 0.7 percent to 22,662.74. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 1.5 percent to 28,248.88 and Seoul's KOSPI was 0.6 percent higher at 2,300.16. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 shed 0.3 percent to 6,253.90 and India's Sensex was 0.1 percent higher at 37,739.62.

EARNINGS MOMENTUM: Stocks are having a good week so far amid gains for media, retail and technology companies, particularly in the U.S. Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway led gains for the financial sector. Investors focused on quarterly results instead of U.S. and Chinese trade threats. Profits have rocketed higher this year thanks to the corporate tax cut and economic growth.

ANALYST'S TAKE: U.S. earnings "are inspiring the bulls at present," said Chris Weston of Pepperstone Group in a commentary. "But for how much longer?" U.S.-China tension "will become a more pressing market issue in the next two months," he said.

CHINA INVESTMENT: A government newspaper said Beijing planned to issue policies to encourage investment amid concern about slowing economic growth and trade tensions. The China Daily said some state banks issued orders to local branches to step up lending. The report, citing an unidentified official of the Cabinet planning agency, said spending on infrastructure is one target for support but gave no other details.

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IRAN NUCLEAR: The Trump administration re-imposed U.S. economic sanctions on Iran despite opposition from European allies who want to preserve an agreement to limit Iranian nuclear activity. President Donald Trump complained the 2015 deal left Tehran flush with cash to fuel conflict in the Middle East. European allies said they "deeply regret" the U.S. action.

ENERGY: The U.S. sanctions helped push up the cost of energy. Benchmark U.S. crude added 66 cents to \$69.67 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 52 cents on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 97 cents to \$74.72 per barrel in London. It advanced 54 cents the previous session.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 111.20 yen from Monday's 111.40 yen. The euro gained to \$1.1590 from \$1.1554.

Today in History **By The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2018. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 7, 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

On this date:

In 1782, Gen. George Washington created the Order of the Purple Heart, a decoration to recognize merit in enlisted men and noncommissioned officers.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II. (Japanese forces abandoned the island the following February.)

In 1959, the United States launched the Explorer 6 satellite, which sent back images of Earth.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia. (The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2000, Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore selected Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman as his running mate; Lieberman became the first Jew on a major party's presidential ticket.

In 2007, San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking in Bangkok, Thailand, praised the spread of freedom in Asia while sharply criticizing oppression and human rights abuses in China, Myanmar and North Korea; the president then traveled to Beijing to attend the opening of the Olympic games.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama's five-year effort to reboot U.S.-Russian relations crashed as the White House abruptly canceled his planned face-to-face summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin. The Major League Baseball Players Association formally appealed Alex Rodriguez's drug probe suspension, sending the case to an independent arbitrator. (The suspension was withheld.)

One year ago: Chicago filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's policy of withholding public safety grants from sanctuary cities, which chose to limit cooperation with government enforcement of immigration laws. (A federal appeals court later ruled that the federal government cannot set new conditions

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to awarding those grants.) Medical examiners said the remains of a man who'd been killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 had been identified, nearly 16 years after the attacks. An indictment against Damaso Lopez Nunez, a leader of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, was unsealed by federal prosecutors in Virginia on the same day his son pleaded not guilty to drug charges in federal court in San Diego. (Lopez, who had been in custody in Mexico, was later extradited to the United States, where he was considered a potential key witness against Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.)

Today's Birthdays: Magician, author and lecturer James Randi is 90. Former MLB pitcher Don Larsen is 89. Actress Verna Bloom is 80. Humorist Garrison Keillor is 76. Singer B.J. Thomas is 76. Singer Lana Cantrell is 75. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 74. Actor John Glover is 74. Actor David Rasche is 74. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 68. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 68. Actress Caroline Aaron is 66. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 66. Actor Wayne Knight is 63. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 60. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 60. Actor David Duchovny is 58. Country musician Michael Mahler (Wild Horses) is 57. Actress Delane Matthews is 57. Actor Harold Perrineau is 55. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 55. Country singer Raul Malo is 53. Actor David Mann is 52. Actress Charlotte Lewis is 51. Actress Sydney Penny is 47. Actor Greg Serano is 46. Actor Michael Shannon is 44. Actress Charlize Theron (shahr-LEES' THAYR'-ehn) is 43. Rock musician Barry Kerch (Shinedown) is 42. Actor Eric Johnson is 39. Actor Randy Wayne is 37. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 36. Actor Liam James is 22.

Thought for Today: "You must learn day by day, year by year, to broaden your horizon. The more things you love, the more you are interested in, the more you enjoy, the more you are indignant about — the more you have left when anything happens." — Ethel Barrymore, American actress (1879-1959).